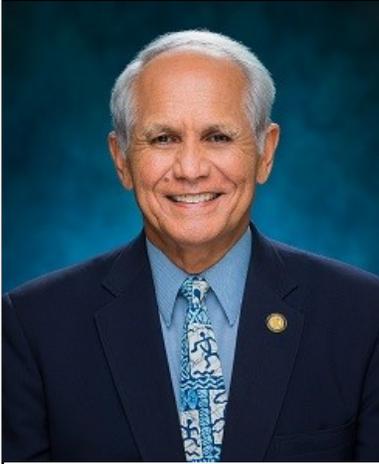




The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



Aloha e Friends,

We just completed a Special Session to provide additional funding for the rail transit project. After much debate, we passed SB 4, which will provide an additional \$2.37 billion to complete the 20-mile project from East Kapolei to Ala Moana. I supported the additional funding, because this project greatly benefits Senate District 20 and the legislation did include a requirement that the state conduct a forensic audit to get to the bottom of why rail costs have escalated from \$5.42 in 2014 to \$10 billion today. Here are the major features of the bill:

- Increases the Transit Accommodation Tax from 9.25% to 10.25% for 13 years from 2018 to 2031.
- Extends the existing half-percent General Excise Tax (GET)

surcharge on O’ahu from 2027 to 2030.

- Decreases the state's skim of the GET surcharge from 10% to 1%.
- Permanently increases the counties' share of the Transit Accommodation Tax from \$93 million to \$103 million.
- Requires state to conduct a forensic audit and annual reviews of HART.
- Creates a mass transit special fund and requires the State Comptroller to certify HART's expenditures.
- Requires the Senate President and House Speaker to appoint 2 non-voting, ex-officio members to the HART Board of Directors. As always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

Mike

Blue Zones Project

Thanks to those of you who came to the Blue Zones Project focus groups at Island Pacific Academy on Thursday. Small group discussions took place in order to steer the Blue Zones Project on a productive and successful path. Our focus is on health & wellness in schools, businesses, and other organizations in Kapolei-Ewa. Your thoughts, concerns and hopes for the future of this great community are encouraged. *There's another meeting this week. Hope you can make it!*



Sen. Gabbard and Councilmember Pine welcome the community to the Blue Zones Project focus group meeting on Aug. 31.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 7:00 – 9:00 pm

@ Ewa Beach Public Library

91-950 North Road, Ewa Beach

For more information, visit [Blue Zones Project](#).
Feel free to contact my office with any questions:
808-586-6830.

September 2017
Vol. 11 Issue 9

COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ♦ Agriculture & Environment

VICE CHAIR

- ♦ Water and Land

MEMBER

- ♦ Judiciary

DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be Oct. 21st 9 a.m.—10:00 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge.

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Board and Commission Confirmations

During the Special Session, the Senate also took action on the confirmation of 57 people to various state Board and Commissions, including the UH Board of Regents, Land Use Commission, Public Utilities Commission, Hawai'i Community Development Authority, and Deputy to the Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

As the Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, I headed up the confirmation process for Lisa Spain and Loyal Mehrhoff of the *Endangered Species Recovery Committee* (ESRC). The ESRC is made up of seven members and serves as a consultant to the Board of Land and Natural Resources and DLNR on matters relating to endangered, threatened, proposed, and candidate species.

Sen. Gabbard spoke to a group of Youth Challenge Academy cadets, Echo Class 47, at the state Capitol on Aug. 29, during the 2017 Special Session.



Pueo Study Update

I met with DLNR and UH staff on August 21st to get the latest update on the study of the population size, distribution and habitat use of the Hawaiian Short-eared Owl, the pueo.

Dr. Javier Cotin, the lead researcher at UH, is currently conducting the island-wide surveys on the prevalence of pueo on our island. As of August, the researchers have detected 11 pueo at 7 different sites. The pueo report will be completed by the UH researcher by April 2018.

UH would like to do an additional two-year study which would include breeding and foraging ecology research. I'll support an appropriation at the Legislature in the hopes of making that happen.

By the way, there's a citizen scientist component of the study, which allows people in the community to report sightings of pueo. If you'd like to get involved, please visit: <https://www.pueoproject.com/>.



7th Annual "Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair"

The Ewa Emergency Preparedness Committee will be hosting the 7th Annual "Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair" at Ewa Makai Middle School in Ewa Beach on September 9th at 9am to 11am. The theme of this year's event is "Prepare Today...Survive Tomorrow" and will focus on tsunami/hurricane preparedness, creating a family plan, preparedness kits, keeping informed, and hands-on modules on the Community Emergency Response Team Program. For more information, contact Ray Cordeiro at 682-0111.

UH West O'ahu Health Sciences/ Administration Building

The \$36 million Health Sciences/Administration building at UH West O'ahu is entering its eighth month of construction and is on track for an October 2018 completion.

The building is anticipated to house the following Health Science Programs: Health Care Administration, Respiratory Care, Community Health, Long-term Care, Native Hawaiian & Indigenous Health & Healing, Health Information Management and Pre-Professional Studies, as well as UHWO administration offices.

The building will be a great addition to our growing campus and will create additional higher education opportunities for our residents.

Mauka Lani Elementary Announcements

I was happy to get the news from Governor Ige on August 14th that he had released \$1,045,000 for ADA improvements at Mauka Lani Elementary. Also, Mauka Lani will host its 6th Annual Mauka Lani Funtastic Carnival on Saturday, September 16th from 4pm to 8:30pm. They'll have TC as the DJ and there will be food, games, and rides. Mauka Lani is looking for volunteers for the Carnival. If you'd like to help out, please contact their PCNC Marie Fuata at 305-8813.

In Memory of Jack Dameron

I participated in the Memorial Service for Jack Dameron at Borthwick Mortuary in Honolulu on August 21st. Jack was a longtime Makakilo resident and served his country in the U.S. Navy. Jack entered the Navy as an enlisted man, worked his way through the enlisted ranks, and became an officer on December 1, 1964. He continued to climb the ladder to his final rank of CMDR, retiring on July 31, 1991. While in the Navy, Jack met his future wife, Norma Gloria Lopez, from Honduras. At the time of their meeting Norma spoke very little English, but the romance blossomed into a marriage that was still going strong after 62 years. Jack was father to two sons, Von and Dean, as well as being a grandfather and great-grandfather. He relished his role of being a provider to his family and was always there when family members were in time of need. He was sometimes tough, as any 38-year military man might be, but also very kind, caring, and compassionate. Jack was actively involved in his neighborhood and community. For over ten years, he attended my monthly community "Listen Story" meetings.



For over 10 years, Jack Dameron attended Sen. Gabbard's monthly community "Listen Story" meetings. (Pictured 2nd from left of Sen. Gabbard.)

My staff and I looked forward to Mr. Dameron's presence and thoughtful participation in the meetings. Jack cared deeply about the Makakilo/Kapolei community and I know he served his country with distinction. I'll miss him dearly.

Honoring Wyland Galleries Waikiki Beach Walk High School Art Scholarship Finalists

I honored two high school students who were finalists in the 3rd Annual Wyland Galleries Waikiki Beach Walk High School Art Scholarship Contest (WHAS) with Honorary Certificates from the State Senate on August 18th. Those students were David Huang from 'Iolani School and Kylie Marie Penullar, from Kapolei High School.



Sen. Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates from the State Senate on Aug. 18, to the two finalists, David Huang from 'Iolani School and Kylie Marie Penullar, from Kapolei High School.

Both students were certified by respected artist, Wyland, and the team as an "Official Wyland Young Artist". The contest was sponsored by Wyland Galleries Waikiki Beach Walk, along with the Hawaiian Community Development Board, Pacific Development Group and Trinity Development and Construction.

Wyland kicked off the evening prior to the start of his art show. Senator Glenn Wakai presented Honorary Certificates from the Legislature to winners Yunjung Rho and Sylvia Lee, both from Moanalua High School.

Since its inception in 2015, WHAS has been a huge success, captivating the hearts of young art students across the state and has awarded over \$10,000 in scholarships and art supplies. As in previous years, the winning art supports the local community.

This year's beneficiary is the U.S.VETS shelters in Kapolei and Waianae, where the winning art pieces will be auctioned at their 2018 fundraiser.

The First Annual 'Ulu Festival, Lā 'Ulu

I participated in the First Annual 'Ulu Festival, Lā 'Ulu on August 26th at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The event was sponsored by Ulupono Initiative, the Maui Breadfruit Company, and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.



Sen. Gabbard and John Cadman, of Maui Breadfruit Company.

'Ulu, or breadfruit, may be one of the most useful, versatile, and amazing crops in the world. Almost every part of the tree can be used to make food, medicine, and crafts.

'Ulu is gluten-free, high in protein, and a low fat starch. It is rich in calcium, magnesium, essential amino acids, as well as, vitamins A, B, and C. One tree can yield fruit in three to five years, provide 350 to 1,000 pounds of food per year, and remain productive for decades. It's delicious, nutritious, easy to grow, and high-yielding. It has more potential to address Hawai'i's food security issues than any other crop. Breadfruit was one of the canoe plants brought to Hawai'i by the first Polynesian settlers for food, shelter, clothing, medicine, and more. Hawaiians used latex from the 'ulu's trunk to treat skin conditions, as glue for canoes, and to catch birds for their feathers. The light, durable wood was crafted into drums, poi boards, canoes, and surfboards. Extensive fields of breadfruit trees once covered the lower slopes of the West Maui Mountains. As Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, I'll continue to support efforts to invest in the research and increased cultivation of this incredible crop.



Sen. Gabbard with Heather Wade, Vertebrate Field Crew and Lissa Strohecker, Outreach and Education Specialist, Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC).

Dogs of War Airsoft Opens in Kalaeloa

I presented a surprise certificate to CEO G. Anthony Quiniola and his wife and business partner, Teresa, at the opening of the Dogs of War in Kalaeloa.

Dogs of War Airsoft provides an intense opportunity to fully engage in the adrenaline packed game of airsoft in an exciting and realistic outdoor arena. They have three fields of over 80,000 square feet of engagement area for airsoft and a 10,000 square foot arena for Nerf.

Dogs of War Airsoft ensures a game that is safe, honorable, and fun, as well as building a community of camaraderie. While encouraging the qualities of honor, integrity, respect, and teamwork, participants of all ages can become stronger as they sprint, crawl, and shoot from various positions.



Dogs of War CEO, Anthony Quiniola and his wife, Teresa, received a surprise certificate from Sen. Gabbard on Aug. 19. Also pictured are his cousins L-R: Rick and Ben, who help with the business. Braden Cox, not pictured, is also a founding member.

Carol and I are hoping Tulsie and Abraham will accept our challenge. But I doubt they will...Reason? No can handle a couple of intense senior citizens! :)



Dogs of War CEO, Anthony Quiniola and Sen. Gabbard after the ribbon cutting at the Grand Opening of Dogs of War, Aug. 19.