

Aloha e Friends,

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. Now that we're beyond the half way point of the 2019 Legislative Session, all the bills and resolutions must be passed out of their respective committees by April 5th. The deadline provides for a mandatory 48-hour period allowing committee members to review the bills before third and final reading in their non-originating chamber. I encourage you to go to capitol.hawaii.gov to track the bills you're interested in and weigh-in if you want to. As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or 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 www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

- ◆ Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaehoa and Waipahu

25 Years of Excellence!

On March 28, I had the honor and privilege of recognizing the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy which hails from Kalaehoa, formerly Barbers Point NAS in Senate District 20, a.k.a. "God's Country" on their 25th Anniversary. With campuses in Kalaehoa on O'ahu and Hilo on Hawai'i Island, YCA provides 16-19 year-old "non-traditional at risk" youth a second chance to obtain their high school diploma and become productive citizens within our community and state.

We had 83 of YCA's O'ahu Campus Class 50 cadets in the Senate Chamber Gallery, as well as their staff. I introduced the Leadership Team on the Senate Chamber floor, where they were greeted individually by all 25 Senators. After being recognized in the Senate, the cadets marched across the Capitol Rotunda to be introduced in the House Chambers.

Each cycle, the Hawai'i YCA accepts approximately 225 "at risk" youth and roughly 21 percent of those who enter the Academy fail to complete the program. About 80 percent graduate and go on to earn their high school diploma. Since its inception, the programs in Hawai'i have graduated over 6,800 students.

Over the years, I've worked closely with YCA leadership and have had the honor of attending several of their functions, from helping cadets serving dinner at a homeless shelter, to being the keynote speaker for a couple of their graduating classes.

Next "Listen Story"

My next Listen Story community meeting will be held together with Representative Sharon Har, on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge. We hope you can join us!



On March 28, Sen. Gabbard honored the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy on their 25th Anniversary. (Pictured R-L: YCA Director - Sina Atanoa; Operations Chief - Pasila Tauga; Program Coordinator - Brandon Suzuki; Hilo Interim Director - Ku'ulei Kekuewa; Mentor Coordinator - Margaret Tatum; Lead Counselor - Penina McMoore; Lead Instructor - Sesega Sivatia; and YCA Class 50 Student President - Cadet Fernandez Sauvao.)

I suppose you could say I have a unique bond with the YCA. Living just down the street from their barracks, we have the distinct pleasure of hearing their bugle blasting reveille at 5:00AM. It may come as a surprise to many of you, but I was an "at-risk" youth myself. I give a "pep talk" to each YCA class, a couple days before graduation where I divulge some of the sordid details of my rebellious youth, and how I turned my life around. in helping solve these problems, instead of just complaining about them.

(Continued on page 3.)



LEGISLATIVE NEWS



Art at the Capitol

This Friday on April 5th, please stop by my office for the 11th Annual Art at the Capitol between 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. as we celebrate "The Capitol is Art." Art at the Capitol begins with the opening program in conference room 329, where the public is introduced to the artists and special guests. Self-guided tours start at 5 p.m. and the galleries of the Senate and House are open to view videos about various art objects at the Capitol and the building of the Capitol in 1969.

Art lovers are invited to enjoy the nearly 500 unique pieces of artwork displayed not just in the open areas of the State Capitol, but in the offices of participating legislators. The art in each office is selected personally by the legislators from the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts "Art in Public Places" collection. Legislators choose the pieces from books illustrating the works of art, which are then installed by the HSFCA.

Art at the Capitol has grown to be a much-anticipated spring tradition. Throughout the evening, music is performed by the Hawai'i Youth Symphony. The program ends at 7 p.m., and the public is invited to continue the celebration of local art and music just across the street at the Hawai'i State Art Museum, which will be open until 9 p.m. Hope to see you then!



The 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Hawai'i State Capitol on March 15, 1969, was celebrated with music, dancers, speakers, and the unveiling of a time capsule. To add to the magical feeling, hundreds of rose petals fluttered down onto the rotunda, released from school children above.

On March 15, Sen. Gabbard attended the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Hawai'i State Capitol.

50th Anniversary of the Hawai'i State Capitol

The 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Hawai'i State Capitol on March 15, 1969, was celebrated last month with music, dancers, speakers, and the unveiling of a time capsule. To add to the magical feeling, hundreds of rose petals fluttered down onto the rotunda, released from school children above.

The Capitol building is unique. There's no other state capitol like it in the country. Totally open all around and up to the sky, it's designed to symbolize an island. The surrounding reflection pool represents the Pacific Ocean. The open roof and volcano shape, of course, represents a volcano and the number eight is hidden everywhere. There are eight columns surrounding the structure, eight on the rotunda, eight on the balcony, eight near the Governor's office, and repeating all across the top... Can you guess the significance of the number eight?



Tax Season!

I hope everyone is getting their taxes done on time, including me 😊. Just so you know, the Villages of Kapolei Association is offering a Free Tax Service, via AARP, on Tuesdays until April 16th.

LEGISLATIVE NEWS

(YCA, continued from page 1).

I talk to them about the importance of serving others, instead of oneself, if they want to be truly happy and successful in life. I let the cadets know how much I believe in this program, and how proud I am of their commitment to see it through to the end.

Hawai'i's YCA program has been recognized as one of the nation's most effective for at-risk teens, and its value never ceases to amaze me. The YCA has been changing the lives of young men and women since 1994, leaving a positive mark on the Hawaiian community that will last for years to come. I commend the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy leadership team and staff for having the vision, determination and commitment to help the young cadets under their care get a second chance at a productive and successful life. Congratulations to Class 50 and to the Youth Challenge Academy staff on your 25th anniversary. IMUA!!

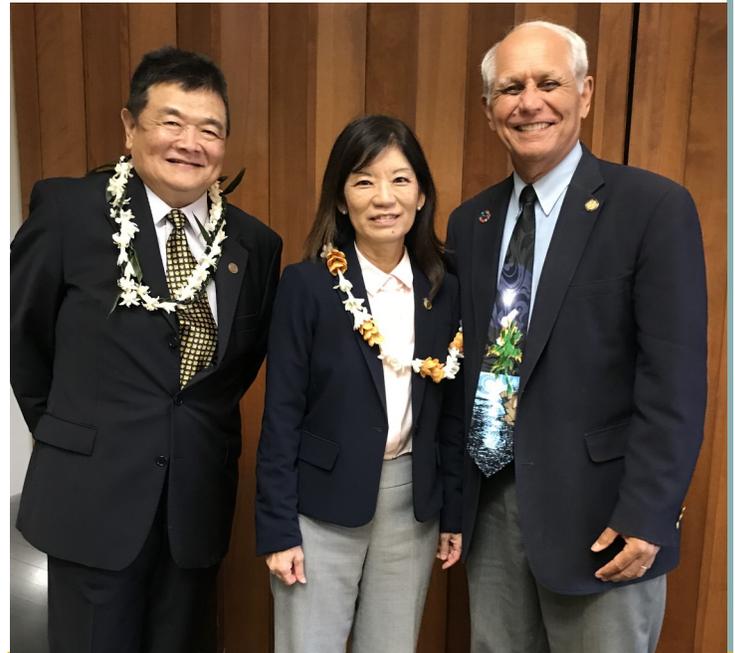


On March 28, Sen. Gabbard honored 83 cadets of Class 50, and 25 staff of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy on their 25th Anniversary.

also videotaped and shown on the four 'Olelo stations throughout the year.

Ola Nā Kini Earth Day Ho'olaule'a

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 20 from 10:30 am-2:30 pm at the new Nānākuli Public Library. Malama Learning Center, in partnership with YES (Youth Envisioning Sustainable) Futures is hosting an event for students from seven public and charter schools from Wai'anae to Mililani who have worked diligently during the school year to study and create solutions for issues related to our 'āina (land and sea). The event will also provide the public with opportunities to learn from the students and community partners who will bring interactive exhibits celebrating aloha 'āina, our love for our islands. For more details, visit [Eventbrite](#).



On March 11, Sen. Gabbard presented a congratulatory lei to Phyllis Shimabkuro-Geiser, Hawai'i Dept. of Agriculture Chair and Glenn Muranaka, HDOA Deputy Director, prior to their confirmation on the Senate Chamber floor.

9th Annual Leeward Music Festival

The Leeward Music Festival spotlights outstanding musical talents, elementary through senior citizens, singing, dancing, and playing musical instruments. The festival has become a "Festival of Champions" with several performers having won state, national, and international competitions. It is usually sold out in advance, so please call Doris Dudley for tickets at 672-8888 so you don't miss out. The Festival is

Villages of Kapolei Association Event

- ◆ 4th Annual Spring Fair - April 27 9:00am-2:00pm
- ◆ Entertainment on Stage, Food Booths, Keiki Zone,
- ◆ Craft & Retail Vendors, Petting Zoo, Games & Fun!
- ◆ Villages of Kapolei • 91-1111 Kamaaha Loop • Kapolei HI

DISTRICT NEWS

Eagle Scout Paul Keith Dulan III, a.k.a. “Kihei”

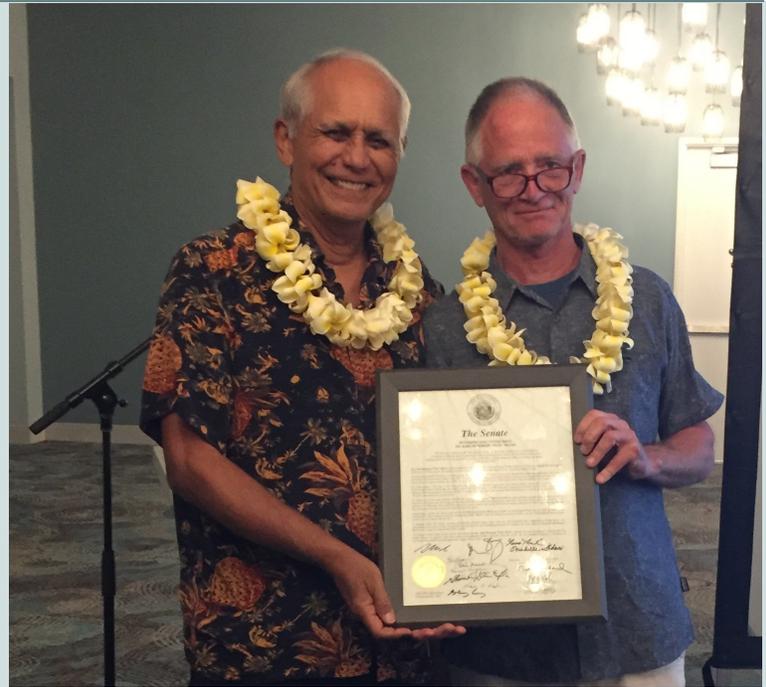
On March 12th, I attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor and presented Paul Keith Dulan III, a.k.a. “Kihei,” with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate. Kihei was joined by his parents, Paul and Mylyn Dulan, his grandmother, Munci Pe’a, and his great grandfather, William Ligsay. Kihei, an active member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, held multiple leadership positions, including being president of the Kapolei Ward Deacon’s Quorum. His most challenging task during his journey to Eagle was his Eagle Scout project.

As an animal lover, he was concerned about the thousands of cats on O’ahu that were abandoned, lost, or born into an environment devoid of kindly human contact. He realized that feral cats were faced with starvation, disease, predation, and acts of terrible cruelty. So, in coordination with a non-profit organization known as Cat Friends, he organized and



On March 12, Sen. Gabbard attended the Eagle Scout Court of Honor and presented Paul Keith Dulan III, a.k.a. “Kihei,” with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate. (Pictured L-R: Paul and Mylyn Dulan, Kihei, and Sen. Gabbard.)

coordinated a trap, neuter, return, and manage (a.k.a. TNRM) project specifically in Kalaeloa, Kapolei. With the help of church and community volunteers, Kihei educated them on the TNRM procedure and was able to safely and humanely trap 20 cats where he then had them neutered or spayed by Cat Friends’ clinic in Kunia. Kihei’s actions prevented the birth of more than 1,000 cats in the next four years, thereby reducing the number of feral cats on O’ahu while protecting the public health of his Kapolei community.



On March 17, Sen. Gabbard presented a surprise Honorary Certificate to Dr. John Peterson “Pete” Myers, founder and Chief Scientist of Environmental Health Sciences.

Dr. John Peterson “Pete” Myers

On March 17, I had the pleasure and honor of presenting a surprise Honorary Certificate to Dr. John Peterson “Pete” Myers, founder and Chief Scientist of Environmental Health Sciences at the Plastic Pollution: The *Smog of the Sea* Film Screening, organized by Kōkua Hawai’i Foundation and the Queen Kapiolani Hotel. The *Smog of the Sea* was directed by Ian Cheney with music by Jack Johnson, and chronicles a one-week journey through the remote waters of the Sargasso Sea.

The film was followed by a discussion panel focused on plastic pollution and current legislative initiatives in Hawai’i aimed at reducing single-use plastics. The panel included Pete Myers, PhD, Paul Lecompte, Mark Cunningham, Surfrider Foundation, Sustainable Coastlines Hawai’i, Zero Waste O’ahu and Kokua Hawai’i Foundation’s Plastic Free Hawai’i Program. Mahalos to Natalie Kinney, Executive Director, Kokua Hawai’i Foundation, for putting together a great event!



A program of the Kokua Hawai’i Foundation