



Aloha e Friends,

Wow, it's August already, which means it's back to school time. As a former teacher, my appreciation and respect goes out to all the hard working and dedicated teachers who are educating our keiki. I wish you well on an amazing 2019 school year. Our teachers deserve our praise and support, and better salaries!

If you're currently looking for employment, you might want to check out the 7th Annual Hire Leeward Job and Career Fair at the Great Lawn on the UH West O'ahu campus on August 10 from 9am – 1pm. The event is sponsored by Councilmember Kym Pine--it's free and open to the public!

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 www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

Kalaeloa HCDA Field Office to Close

I was notified on July 24 that the Hawai'i Community Development Authority closed their Kalaeloa Field Office as of July 31. HCDA's stated reason is that they want to consolidate their resources for the various HCDA development districts, which include Kaka'ako, Kalaeloa, He'eia, and Halawa. This decision is very disappointing and will negatively impact the growing Kalaeloa community. We need HCDA's eyes and ears out in Kalaeloa and I hope HCDA will reconsider this shortsighted decision. I've worked closely with the HCDA Field Office since 2006 and am convinced they should have a physical presence in our West O'ahu community.

**COMMITTEE
CHAIR**

**AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT**

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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

"Listen Story"

My next Listen Story community meeting will be on Saturday, August 24, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Ewa Mahiko District Park Meeting Room.



Pictured (L-R): Dave Underriner, President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Hawai'i Region; Rep. Sharon Har; Frank Richardson, VP, Gov't Relations for Kaiser; Councilmember Kymberly Pine and Sen. Gabbard.

Kapolei Kaiser Permanente Office Building

I participated in the groundbreaking for a planned Kaiser Permanente medical office building in Kapolei on July 2. Kaiser Permanente is investing \$60 million to expand care for West O'ahu residents. The 40,000-square-foot medical office will include primary and specialty care, as well as prevention and wellness programs, on 5.4 acres of land at the corner of Kapolei Parkway and Kamokila Boulevard. Kaiser purchased this land in 2008. The project is scheduled to be completed

West O'ahu Road Construction Updates

At the June meeting of the Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board, Curtis Matsuda of the state Department of Transportation provided these two important updates on road improvements in West O'ahu:

Ft. Barrette Road Improvements – The first phase of the project will include road resurfacing and will begin in September 2019. A second phase will start in June 2020 and involve the installation of traffic signals, a shared use path for pedestrians and bicyclists, and dedicated right and left turn lanes.





AYSO National Games Opening Ceremony with Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard; Josh Green-Lt. Gov; Kymberly Pine-City Councilmember; Clyde Assto-AYSO Section 7 Director; Matt Winegar-AYSO National Executive Director; Ron Menor-City Councilmember; Donna Nelson-AYSO National Board Member; Brendan Cravalho-Venue Chair; and Irwin Kavy-National Director of Tournaments.

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Kapolei Interchange Complex Phase 2 – This project includes the construction of the Wakea Street overpass, H-1 Westbound off-ramp to Wakea Street; Wakea Street westbound on-ramp to Farrington Hwy and will be completed by November 2019.

American Youth Soccer Organization National Games in Waipio

I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate at American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) National Games 2019 Opening Ceremony on July 1 at Waipio Soccer Peninsula in Waipahu. Our state hosted over 11,000 players, parents, and volunteers from across the country from July 1-7 for the National Games. AYSO first came to Hawai’i in 1974, but was established in 1964 out of a garage in Torrance, California. AYSO is the oldest national youth soccer program in the U.S. Beginning with only nine teams and a handful of soccer enthusiasts, AYSO was born in an effort to ensure that all kids in the U.S. have the opportunity to be introduced to the wonderful game of soccer. AYSO now has over 850 individual programs, or “regions,” across the nation—and internationally in the Virgin Islands, Trinidad, and Tobago—engaging more than 400,000 players and 100,000 volunteers. Over the years, traditions have been added as each region wove a bit of its own spirit into the

standard AYSO fabric. The National Games are everything AYSO represents. They reflect the excellence, tradition, and spirit of its players, volunteers, spectators, and philosophies, which are: Everyone Plays, Balanced Teams, Player Development, Positive Coaching, Open Registration, and Good Sportsmanship.

Lecture: Integrative Approach to Diabetes

Queen's Medical Center–West O’ahu is hosting a free "Speaking of Health" lecture called An Integrative Approach to Diabetes Management on August 15 from 6pm–7pm.

Ku’uleikuponookealoha Na’ahi’elua (MSN, AGNP-C, BC-ADM) will discuss natural and complementary approaches to diabetes management, including:

- ◆ Mental health and diabetes: What’s the connection?
- ◆ Evidence-based mind and body practices: Lifestyle choices for improved quality of life
- ◆ Supplements in diabetes management: A discussion on commonly used products

The lecture takes place in the Queen's West O’ahu Lobby. Space is limited, so reservations are required. To register, call The Queen’s Referral Line at 691-7117. Free parking is available.



On July 7, Sen. Gabbard was interviewed by documentary film producer, Kelly Miyahara at Hanauma Bay, on Senate Bill 2571, which he introduced to ban the sale of sunscreen containing harmful chemicals to the environment and human health. Act 104 goes into effect January 2021.

Upcoming Villages of Kapolei Association Events

For all you Villages of Kapolei residents, here are a few upcoming VOKA events that you might want to check out:

Keiki Biathlon

On August 31, there will be a Keiki Biathlon with a swim in the pool and a run/walk around Kapolei Community Park. This event is intended to promote healthy competition for ages 14 and under. You can register now at the VOKA Recreation Office. This event also requires many volunteers to time and supervise the route. If your club, group, or family would like to assist, please contact the Recreation Department at 674-4444 Ext. 2. VOKA is also looking for sponsors or donations for prizes and healthy snacks.

Swap Meet

There will be a Swap Meet from 8am to noon on September 21 next to Kapolei Elementary School. You can register now to sell used, new, and food items. (Please be aware health permits and insurance may be required for food). Salvation Army donation bins will be here that day as well. This event is open to the public.

Public Trails Legislation

Since the end of the 2019 legislative session in May, I've participated in a PBS Insights television show (May 16) and a Business Magazine interview about the continuing problem of illegal trespassing on our public trails. Back in September 2018, there was a story about 4 men who were cited for entering Manoa Falls Trails when it was closed. Department of Land and Natural Resources officers reported seeing the suspects going under clearly visible yellow "police" tape and past numerous closed signs. This got me thinking about this problem and how we could look at improving the situation. I asked our Senate attorneys to provide me some background research on current penalties for trespassing on our public trails. I decided that it made sense to introduce SB 248 in 2019 that would require a government agency to be reimbursed

when a person hikes into prohibited or remote areas, acts in an irresponsible manner, and ends up needing to be rescued.

The bill would also would increase fines to \$500 for a first violation, \$750 for a second violation, and \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation as a petty misdemeanor for violations involving trails (trespassing, entering when closed) in state parks, trails that are part of DLNR's Na Ala Hele trail system, and trails on state lands (in instances where there's signage). The bill passed the Public Safety, Intergovernmental & Military Affairs and Water & Land committees on February 11 with DLNR, HPD, and 5 other individuals in support.

However, the bill didn't move forward when it wasn't scheduled for a hearing in the Judiciary and Ways & Means committees. Ultimately, the intention of SB 248 is to have a conversation about the personal responsibility that should be shown when a person chooses to ignore trail closures, but instead do it any way. Especially nowadays with social media encouraging people to take risks that put them in harm's way. Additionally, it's not cheap or simple to execute a helicopter rescue, so allowing government agencies to seek reimbursement for rescues may be a good deterrent for people taking chances when they really shouldn't be. This will also save taxpayer dollars because a helicopter rescue can cost upwards of \$1,500. I'll be revisiting this again in 2020 and would welcome your input.



On May 16, Senator Gabbard participated in the PBS Insights panel discussion, "Hiker Rescue Fines," along with (L-R:) DLNR Division of Forestry & Wildlife Na Ala Hele Trails & Access Program, Mike Millay; Hawaiian Trail & Mountain Corp., Ralph Valentino; Moderator, Lara Yamada; and HFD Capt. Scot Seguirant.

Bracenet Ecofluencer Interview

I had a cool experience on July 9 when I was interviewed by Jenni Janski of Hamburg, Germany in my office at the Capitol. Jenni is an "ecofluencer"--a person with the ability to influence environmentally friendly behavior by promoting it on social media. She works with the Hamburg-based Bracenet, a company that's fighting the problem of ghost gear in our oceans and that produces handcrafted bracelets, Bracenets, out of lost or discarded fishing nets (ghost nets). Bracenet's ecofluencer project is a traineeship where Jenni Janski travels around the world as sustainable and ethical as possible for three months (May 2019- July 2019), visiting key marine conservation projects, talking with politicians and polluters, and reporting on solutions. She produces short informative videos and blog posts shared through Bracenet's social media channels, showcasing innovative ways to combat ocean (plastic) pollution. The aim is to give inspiration in a positive manner to create a sustainable future and to use social media's influence for a good cause. Before visiting



On July 9, Sen. Gabbard was interviewed by Bracenet "ecofluencer" Jenni Janski about his 2018 sunscreen legislation.

Hawai'i, Jenni had already been to Kenya, Greece, and Turkey. My interview with Jenni focused on Act 104, legislation I introduced in 2018, which led to Hawai'i becoming the first jurisdiction in the world to ban sunscreens with oxybenzone and octinoxate. Research shows that these chemicals are a threat to coral reefs, marine life, and human health. The law goes into effect on January 1, 2021.

Honoring Dr. Kioni Dudley on His 80th Birthday

I prepared an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate for Dr. Kioni Dudley in recognition of his 80th birthday celebration, which took place on July 27 at the Kapolei Golf Club. Kioni came to Hawai'i in 1971 and worked with the military at Schofield Barracks as the Director of Religious Education for its Catholic community.

In 1975, he took a trip around the world, visiting important sites of all the world's major religions, and broadening his spiritual knowledge. He then took a 20% cut in pay and began teaching Religion full-time at Chaminade University. Once there, Kioni was told to prepare a course in Ancient Hawaiian Religion, and this began his life-long study of Hawaiian history and culture, as well as his commitment and service to the Hawaiian people and the islands of Hawai'i. In 1986, Kioni received a doctorate in Philosophy from the UH Manoa. His doctoral dissertation was a reconstruction of ancient Hawaiian philosophy. Much of it can be found in his book "Man, Gods, and Nature". He has remained a leader in the sovereignty movement through the years, and currently co-hosts a TV program, "The Sovereignty Conversation."

Kioni has also been very active in environmental efforts and ran for governor of Hawai'i as the Green Party candidate in 1994. For the last twenty years, Kioni has been a strong voice for the people and the 'āina as an elected member of the Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board. In 2007, Kioni was named State Grand Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus and received an Award for Service from St. Jude Catholic Church. For the last ten years, he has also greatly enjoyed supporting his wife, Doris, as she has organized the annual Leeward Music Festival. The Honolulu Star-Bulletin named him as one of "Ten Who Made a Difference in Hawai'i in 2009." The next year, the Hawai'i Agricultural Conference named him a "Hero of Agriculture, Food, and the Environment." Wishing Kioni many more healthy and productive years in Makakilo!