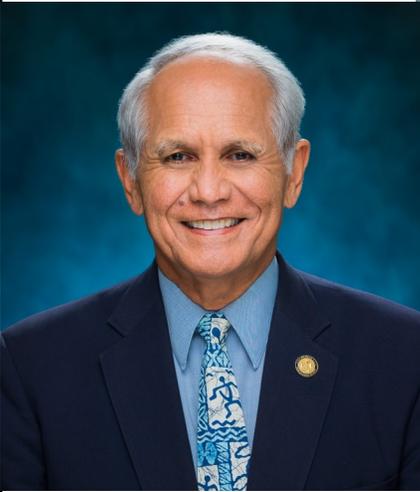




The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Senator Mike Gabbard

December 2019 Vol. 13 Issue 12



Aloha e Friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your 'ohana.

Governor Ige and first lady, Dawn Amano-Ige, are inviting the public to a special Christmas Open House at Washington Place on December 20 from 5pm to 8pm. There will be Christmas trees and holiday decorations on display. The Priory Chamber Choir from St. Andrew's Schools will perform a musical program from 6:30pm to 7pm. Reservations are required for this event: http://bit.ly/ige_christmas. All adults have to present a picture ID upon entrance to the property and are subject to a bag inspection. Free parking will be available at the state Department of Health (Kina`u Building) parking lot. 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.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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

Ewa Beach Community Christmas Parade

Ewa Beach Community Christmas Parade and Holiday Festival will be on December 21 from 9am to 1pm at Pohakea Elementary School. The event is being sponsored by TeenBuilding USA and will include a Meet & Greet with Santa with food vendors, keiki activities, entertainment, and last-minute gifts.

Kauhale Project in Kalaeloa

Lt. Governor Josh Green notified the community at the Ewa Beach Neighborhood Beach meeting on November 14 that he's moving forward with the Kauhale Project in Kalaeloa to address homelessness. A groundbreaking for the project took place on November 28. The concept is based on a model homeless program in Austin, TX, which focuses on micro-housing units and social services. Home Aid is designing the project, which will be located next to US Vets in Kalaeloa on 1.5 acres of land owned by the



New tiny home community for the homeless now under construction in Kalaeloa (Photo credit: Hawai'i News Now).

Hawai'i Public Housing Authority. It will include 35 micro-units and will have community gardens. The project is being expedited based on the Governor's Emergency Declaration on Homelessness and will only take 120 days to complete. This project will be for single homeless individuals and they will be pay roughly \$225 for rent. Local developers will be donating funding to build some of the homes and carpenters will donate labor. The Lt. Governor proposes a total of 11 of these Kauhale projects around the state, including Waimanalo, Wai`anae, Kakaako, Kona, and Hilo.



COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ideas for Legislation

As noted in my November newsletter, our 2020 legislative session will begin on January 15. I'm interested in your ideas, if you'd like to offer suggestions for changes or improvements in how our state government operates. You don't have to have a full-fledged bill written out, just a few bullet points to get us started and we'll take it from there. Please let me know. The deadline for introducing new bills is usually one week after session starts.



Habilitat Christmas Tree Fundraiser

As of November 30, Habilitat is holding a Christmas tree fundraiser at the old Kapolei Kmart parking lot (500 Kamokila Blvd). The trees can be picked up from noon to 9pm each day until they are sold out. The available trees will be fragrant Douglas firs (4-10 feet), dark green noble firs (2-9 feet), soft and silvery grand firs (2-10 feet), and bright green Nordmann firs (6-10 feet). The proceeds will help Habilitat's participants that are struggling with substance abuse and homelessness. For more information, go to <https://www.habilitat.com/hawaii-christmas-trees/>



Habilitat is holding a Christmas tree fundraiser at the old Kapolei Kmart parking lot.

Hāpai Pōhaku Scholarship

Application Period Now Open

Kapolei Community Development Corporation has announced that the application period for the Hāpai Pōhaku Scholarship is now open. The Hāpai Pōhaku Scholarship Endowment fund was established in 2018 by Kapolei homestead leaders to assist students residing in Kapolei homestead communities who are pursuing higher education opportunities. A \$2,000 scholarship is awarded annually. The requirements are that you be a:

- ◆ Resident of the State of Hawai'i
- ◆ Maintain a cumulative GPA of 2.7
- ◆ Attend a 2 or 4-year institution with the minimum of an associate's degree
- ◆ Reside in one of the Kapolei region homesteads
- ◆ Provide verification of residence with a letter from the president of your homestead association

To apply for the scholarship visit:

<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org> The deadline for applications is January 31, 2020 at 4pm. For more information, call 566-5570.

Kapolei Parkway Mixed Use Development for Affordable Housing and Preschool

On November 6, I wrote a letter to Craig Hirai, the Executive Director of the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, to express my support for Kapolei Parkway Partners, LLLP's consolidated financing application for the development of the Kapolei Parkway Mixed Use Development for Affordable Rental Housing and Preschool. This project will be located adjacent to the Mehana Community in Kapolei and will provide approximately 400 affordable units up to 60% AMI with 20 units at 30% AMI. There will be two-to-three story buildings with 1, 2, 3, and 4-bedroom units and studios. There will be three single story parking garages with solar PV on top. A unique aspect of the project is that they are partnering with Partners in Development and will have a preschool with 50+ seats within the project. Construction on the project should begin in Spring 2021 and be completed in Spring 2023.

LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Plastic Source Reduction Working Group

As the introducer of SB 522 (Act 254), which created the Plastic Source Reduction Working Group, and Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, I welcomed members for the first meeting of the Working Group via a letter on November 14. I commended the members for their willingness to spend their time and energy to come up with recommendations on how to address the negative impacts that disposable plastics are having on our environment and human health. I also extended a big mahalo to the Department of Health for convening the Working Group and to Dr. Peter Adler for moderating. I suggested that it was

important to recognize the past leadership of our County Councils on the plastic issue. It's also relevant to consider that the Honolulu City Council is now deliberating on Bill 40, which would have far reaching positive impacts in helping the people of Hawai'i take leadership on reducing disposable plastics. I'm hopeful that the Working Group can reach consensus and provide the State Legislature with solid recommendations leading into the 2021 session.

Act 278 Study of Subdivision and Condominium Property Regime on Agricultural Lands on O`ahu

My office has been participating in the meetings of the Act 278 Study of Subdivision and Condominium Property Regime (CPR) on Agricultural Lands on O`ahu Working Group. Act 278 was enacted in 2018 and directed the Office of Planning, Land Use Commission, Real Estate Commission, and City Department of Planning and Permitting to study subdivision and CPR laws related to agricultural land and report findings to the Legislature prior to the 2021 legislative session. The goals of this Working Group are to:

- ⇒ Keep suitable agricultural land for agriculture
- ⇒ Support farmers and farming
- ⇒ Keep agriculture lands affordable
- ⇒ Enable long-term access to agricultural lands for farmers

The Working Group is trying to address the problems of fake farms and gentlemen estates, the proliferation of dwellings without a farm component, and the burdensome standards for agricultural subdivisions. I'm looking forward to the Working Group's recommendations so that we can better protect agricultural lands for their intended purpose of growing more food for local residents.

Office of the Governor Seeking Taxation Board Applicants

The Office of the Governor is seeking volunteers for the Boards of Taxation Review statewide. The boards informally hear and decide disputes between taxpayers and tax assessors, as an alternative to filing formal appeals with the Hawai'i Tax Appeals Court. There are currently three vacancies on the O`ahu board, five vacancies on the Kaua'i board, and one each on Maui and Hawai'i Island. The Taxation Review boards may hear a wide range of cases with the exception of matters involving the United States Constitution or federal laws. The boards are required to hold at least one public meeting annually. Board members must be current residents of the island on which they serve. For more information or to apply, go to boards.hawaii.gov or contact Sharon Ibarra at boards.commissions@hawaii.gov.

HONORARY CERTIFICATES



Honoring Eagle Scout Tristan Laforga

I prepared an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate for the Eagle Court of Honor ceremony for Tristan Laforga of Ewa Beach that will be held at the Mililani Rec Center on December 22. Tristan graduated Magna Cum Laude with the class of 2019 from James Campbell High School. He currently attends Leeward Community College.

Tristan is a member of Mililani Troop 664 and is also a member of the Order of the Arrow (OA) which is Scouting's National Honor Society. For over 100 years, OA has recognized Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives.

This recognition provides encouragement for others to live these ideals as well. Arrowmen are known for their quality leadership that enriches and inspires upcoming scouts. Tristan's Eagle Scout service project was to beautify the imu pit area at Ilima Intermediate School. He led a group of over thirty fellow scouts and adult volunteers. His project consisted of over forty hours of physical work and more than four months of planning. Tristan truly lives the Scout Law by doing his duty to God and country, and keeping himself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. I wish him all success.

Honoring National Merit Semifinalist Veronica "Ronnie" Cunitz

I honored Veronica "Ronnie" Cunitz, a senior at Hawai'i Technology Academy (HTA) in Waipahu, with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate for being named one of Hawai'i's sixty-three National Merit Semifinalists. Ronnie has never earned less than an A in any class, even after skipping two grades; her current GPA is 4.14. Ronnie is an avid competitor.

Her main extra-curricular activity is Science Olympiad. This is her 6th year in the program, and she has medaled at the state level every year. She also participates in CyberPatriot, a cybersecurity competition, and in Aloha Bowl, an ocean sciences competition. Additionally, Ronnie is an Ambassador-level Girl Scout who is currently working on her Gold Award project to lead an Elementary Science Olympiad club for 3rd-5th graders at HTA. In her spare time, Ronnie loves to paint, play the guitar and the ukulele. Ronnie has applied to twelve different colleges in hopes of maximizing her chances of excellent scholarship offers. She intends to major in Chemical Engineering, because she is planning to eventually work in the renewable energy field.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) is an academic competition for recognition and scholarships that began in 1955. Approximately 1.6 million high school students enter the program each year. NMSC's goals have remained constant since its inception: to identify and honor academically talented U.S. high school students; to stimulate increased support for their education; and to provide efficient and effective program management for organizations who wish to sponsor college undergraduate scholarships.