

Aloha e Friends,

We concluded the 2020 legislation session on July 10. As we start the month of August, we're seeing a record number of COVID-19 cases. So please take all the appropriate good hygiene measures and social distancing to protect you and your 'ohana. Our public schools will be opening on August 17, two weeks later than originally planned, after a July 30 vote by the Board of Education.

As always, please 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 facebook.com/senmikegabbard

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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

Agriculture and Environment Committee Bills

That Passed

During our abbreviated legislative session (June 22-July 10), the committee chairs were given the opportunity to take up a few bills that didn't have a fiscal impact on the state. For years, I've been trying to get a commercial hemp program established in our state. My top priority during the session was to pass a revised version of House Bill 1819, which would allow farmers to apply to the U.S. Department of Agriculture to become licensed to grow, process, and sell hemp products. This would allow Hawai'i to create a new industry, create jobs, and diversify our economy that now relies too heavily on tourism. I'm happy to announce that we were able to pass the bill and it now goes to Governor David Ige to sign into law. Hemp hemp hooray! Hemp is an incredible plant that produces over 25,000 products and we're very close to making the Hawaiian Hemp brand a reality, not only in the U.S. but globally as well. To read more details, please click here: https://bit.ly/hemp_Gabbard2020. (See page 2 for a rundown of the other Agriculture and Environment bills that passed.)



Pandemic Food Assistance

The state Department of Human Services is getting the word out about the Pandemic EBT Food Assistance program. If your child received free or reduced-price meals this year, your child is eligible to receive up to \$360 in food purchasing assistance. Check your eligibility status at pais-pebt.dhs.hawaii.gov/ or if you have questions send an email to: hi.pebt@dhs.hawaii.gov.



LEGISLATIVE NEWS

Agriculture and Environment Committee

Bills That Passed

HB 2486 (Statewide Sustainability Branch) - this bill would set up a Statewide Sustainability Branch within the Office of Planning to ensure stronger, long-term planning, coordination, and implementation of Hawaii's sustainability goals. The State Sustainability Coordinator who is now [Danielle Bass](#), would serve as the Administrator of the Branch.

HB 1854 (Little Fire Ant Control) - this bill requires the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Ant Lab to come up with and post on its website best practices as it applies to the use of pesticides for Little Fire Ant control. It also clarifies that training for invasive species be based on best available technology and best practices.

SB 2060 (Coastal Zone Management) - this bill strengthens the state's coastal zone management policy and improves our overall resiliency to climate change. The bill identifies sea level rise as one of the coastal hazards that the state has to address. It improves the protection of beaches and beach ecosystems that are under threat from sea level rise; and prohibits shoreline erosion structures (hardening) on sandy beaches unless the granting of a variance is clearly in the public interest.

SB 2386 (Landfill Buffer Zones) - this bill prevents landfills from expanding if they are located within ½ mile from a residential, school, or hospital property line. It also prohibits new landfills within the ½ mile buffer zone and prohibits them from being located in a conservation district.

SB 2701 (Agriculture Building Investigations) – this bill that I authored was recommended by the Subdivision and Condominium Property Regimes on Agricultural Lands working group that was initiated by Act 245 (2019) under the Office of Planning. The idea is to prevent fake farms. The bill allows the appropriate agency, such as the county fire department and county permitting agency to enter the property upon reasonable notice to the owner or occupant, to investigate agricultural buildings for compliance with current law.

Hawai'i is Hiring – Virtual Job Fair Coming Up!

The Hawai'i Chamber of Commerce is partnering with Staffing Solutions of Hawai'i and Kahu Malama Nurses on the [Hawai'i is Hiring Virtual Job Fair](#), which is coming up on August 12 from 8:30am to 12pm.

Hawai'i is Hiring is an innovative alternative to connect candidates and employers one-on-one, virtually, and will include virtual employer exhibitor booths, virtual peer-to-peer networking, virtual workshop sessions, and virtual professional development webinars.

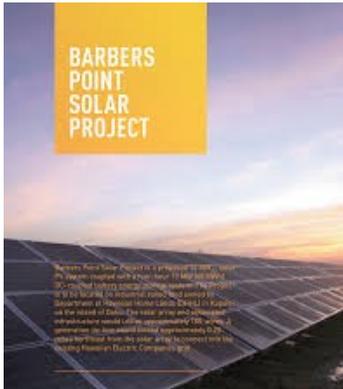
Attendance for job seekers is free but you need to register to participate, using this link: <https://cochawaii.chambermaster.com/eventregistration/register/1112784>. If you have questions, contact Tricia Fetui at tfetui@cochawaii.org.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAWAII PRESENTS
HAWAII IS HIRING VIRTUAL JOB FAIR
PRESENTED BY
Staffing Solutions of Hawaii and Kahu Malama Nurses
CONNECTING HAWAII'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND JOB SEEKERS
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2020
8:30 AM - 12:00 PM
GETTING HAWAII BACK TO WORK Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

DISRICT 20 NEWS

Project Updates in Our Community



Here's an update on some projects that are happening in our community:

Barbers Point Solar Project Innergex Renewable Development is in the process of developing the Barbers Point Solar Project. This will be a 15 MW

solar farm with a 60 MWh hour battery system. It will produce enough energy to power 6,200 homes and will be located on three parcels of Department of Hawaiian Homelands, totaling 100 acres along Coral Sea Road in Kalaeloa. As a community benefits package, Innergex will provide the Kapolei Community Development Corporation at least \$35,000 a year for the Kapolei Heritage Center. Innergex will start construction in the 4th quarter of 2022 and the solar farm will be operational by 4th quarter of 2023.

DreamHouse Charter School - DreamHouse 'Ewa Beach Charter School was founded in 2012 by a group of educators, parents, and community leaders who were committed to developing and launching a charter school that would empower homegrown leaders for



Alex Teece,
DreamHouse Charter School CEO

Hawai'i, our country, and our world. They opened an original, stand-alone charter school in 2019 after seven years of planning, design, and development alongside the community. It served an inaugural cohort of 100 6th graders while

operating out of temporary office space in the corner of a shopping plaza in Ewa Beach. They have now doubled the size of their school from 100 to 200 students, while adding a new grade (7th) and building out a \$4 million newly renovated charter facility adjacent to Wakea Garden Apartments in Kalaeloa. The school will open August 2020. DreamHouse is applying for the Charter School Programs federal grant from the US Department of Education and I submitted a letter of support.

Honouliuli Middle School – This new public middle school is located off Maunakapu Street behind Kroc Center in Kapolei. Once built out, it will serve 1,050 sixth-eighth grade students. I helped secure \$46 million in state funding in Fiscal Years 2019-2021 for the school. Phase 1 for 6th graders will open August 17. As of right now, Phase II that will include 7th grade is on hold due to a bid protest. Phase III, which will add 8th grade, may



start construction in early 2021. They will be adding temporary portables in the later part of Phase I to account for the next grade level in August 2021.

Kaiser Medical Office Building – Kaiser Permanente is investing \$60 million to build a medical office building in Kapolei to expand care for West O'ahu residents. They are building a 40,000-square-foot medical office that 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 in Kapolei. They'll have family, adult, & keiki care; prevention and wellness programs; mental health services; a laboratory; and pharmacy. The project groundbreaking was on July 2, 2019 and their latest schedule update shows substantial completion by December 21, 2020 with first patient service on April 5, 2021.

Kapolei Veterans Home – A \$70 million, 120-bed home veterans home is planned for about seven acres of a 26-acre state-owned parcel across from the Walmart store in Kapolei. It will be on the corner of the property, which is bounded by Farrington Highway, Fort Barrette Road, and Kealanani Avenue. It will be 135,000-square-feet in size. The development team includes the Hawai'i Department of Defense, the state Department of Accounting and General Services, MGA Architecture, Hida, Okamoto & Associates, and Honua Consulting. Governor Ige released \$4.8 million for the project on February 21, 2020 that had been appropriated by the Legislature and the Legislature appropriated an additional \$30.1 million for the project during the 2020 legislative session.

RECOGNITION

Foodland Farms Opens at the Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i



Senator Gabbard presented an honorary certificate from the State Senate to Stacy Waiau-Omori, Foodland Vice President of Sales and Operations, on July 13, 2020, to recognize the opening of Foodland Farms at the Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i in Kapolei.

I participated in a Sneak Peek event and presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate on July 13 in recognition of the Grand Opening of Foodland Farms at the Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i in Kapolei. The official grand opening of the store was July 15.

The new 32,000 square-foot store West O'ahu location offers exciting new food discoveries, exclusive grab-and-go and prepared foods, along with an abundance of healthy gluten-free, plant-based and vegan options.

Exclusive to Foodland Farms Ka Makana Ali'i is Mahi 'ai Table, an in-store, full-service restaurant and bar with a menu of local farm-to-table dishes featuring surprising flavor combinations.

In Hawaiian, "mahi 'ai" means "farmer" or "farming", and in celebration of Hawai'i's farming community, Mahi 'ai Table uses the freshest ingredients procured from local farms, such

as Mari's Gardens, Ho Farms, and MA'O Organic Farms.

Established in 1948, Foodland is Hawai'i's largest locally owned and operated grocery retailer. Foodland was founded by the late Maurice J. "Sully" Sullivan as a family-run, community-focused company that puts customers first with an unshakable commitment to building both a better shopping experience and a better Hawai'i.

International Day of Yoga Celebration

I gave a short speech at Hawai'i's Second Annual Celebration of the International Day of Yoga on June 21. The event took place virtually via Zoom. The International Day of Yoga was declared unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly in 2014 thanks to the efforts of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his UN address that year. The following year, on June 21, 2015, observance of the event began and millions of people across the world participated.

In India alone, 35,985 people including Prime Minister Modi and dignitaries from 84 nations, performed yoga asanas for 35 minutes in New Delhi. They set two Guinness World Records for the largest yoga class and for the largest number of participating nationalities. The day was observed by millions across the world.

Locally, the Gandhi International Institute for Peace worked with the State Legislature in 2019 to designate June 21 as "International Yoga Day" in Hawai'i. In the process, it officially recognized yoga as a long standing aspect of Indian civilization and a gift to humanity. Its practice is beneficial to the people of Hawai'i, including children, as it lowers stress, reduces health problems and health insurance costs, as well as promotes healthy living among adults and the elderly population. As background, in 2019, I introduced SB 267, which designated June 21 of each year as International Yoga Day in Hawai'i. The companion bill, HB 349, was introduced by House Speaker Scott Saiki and had the same noble purpose. HB 349 passed the Legislature and was signed into law as Act 102 on June 21, 2019.