



Senator Mike Gabbard

19th District, West Oahu

WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK, ROYAL KUNIA,
KAPOLEI, MAKAKILO, KALAELOA, HONOKAI HALE,
& PORTIONS OF WAIPAHAU & KO 'OLINA

CHAIR
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIR
TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS,
AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

◆ December 2009 ◆



Aloha Friends,

I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We, at the Legislature, have some very difficult budget realities to deal with this upcoming session, but I'm hopeful that our economy will rebound in 2010.

If I can help you in any way, please email me at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov or call me at 586-6830 anytime.

Listen-Story

My next Listen-Story community meeting will be at the Kapolei Starbucks next to the Chevron Station on

Saturday, January 9th from 9-10am.

I hope to see you there. This photo is from last month's meeting at Waikēle Starbucks.



Kapolei Court Complex Will Open Soon

I had a chance to tour the new Kapolei Court Complex on November 18th with Chief Justice Ronald Moon, project manager Christina Uebelein, and other area legislators. The Kapolei Court Complex is an important addition to our growing city and will make things much more convenient for Leeward Oahu residents, who will no longer have to travel into town for court-related legal services

The \$133 million project will open on March 29, 2010 and will have 12 non-jury courtrooms, 1 jury courtroom, and a juvenile facility that will house up to 66 young people.



Big Solar Projects Coming to Kalaeloa

I testified at a public hearing held by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) on November 16th. The hearing was held to give the public a chance to weigh in on two proposed solar energy projects that would be located on DHHL lands in Kalaeloa. Sopogy, a Hawai'i based company led by Darren Kimura, plans to construct its Kalaeloa Solar One concentrated solar power project, which will be the largest solar farm of its kind in the state.

(For more on the project, see Page 2...)



(Continued from Solar Projects story on Page 1...) Kalaeloa Solar One will provide 4MW of power for 1,150 homes, eliminate 13,475 barrels of imported oil annually, and create over 300 construction jobs. Recurrent Energy is a San Francisco based company which plans to build a 5 MW solar PV project. It will include 25,000 PV panels and save 20,000 barrels of oil a year.



As a Kalaeloa resident and Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, I'm in strong support of renewable energy development in Kalaeloa. I commend DHHL for taking a leadership role in helping us meet our goal of supplying 70% of our energy needs from renewable sources and energy efficiency by 2030.



Important Funding for District 19 Schools

I was pleased that Governor Lingle released \$75 million in funding on Nov 4th that the Legislature had appropriated for needed improvements, repairs, and maintenance at our schools. Here's a breakdown of what District 19 schools received:

Barbers Point Elementary	\$646,000
Kaleiopuu Elementary	\$97,000
Kapolei Elementary	\$285,000
Kapolei Middle	\$316,000
Makakilo Elementary	\$364,000
Mauka Lani Elementary	\$302,000
Waikele Elementary	\$185,000



Waikele resident Christine Kajiwaru (front row in blue), a former intern for Senator Mike Gabbard, visited the State Capitol on November 25th with her teacher Lance Boyd (left) and classmates from the Academy of the Pacific. As Chair of the Senate's Energy & Environment Committee, Senator Gabbard listened to the students' proposals and ideas for energy-related legislation.



Tapped the Movie

A Wake-Up Call for Bottled Water Drinkers

I served as a panelist for the screening of *Tapped the Movie* at the UH Law School on November 18th. The screening was sponsored by the Sierra Club and gave me, their Executive Director Robert Harris, Marvin Heskett of the Surfrider Foundation, Carol Feinga of Kokua Foundation Hawai'i, and Tamara Armstrong of the KYA Sustainability Studio an opportunity to share our thoughts on this powerful documentary.



Tapped focuses on the negative health and environmental impacts created by the bottled water industry. As you know, Hawai'i has a deposit beverage container program aimed at getting us to ramp up our recycling efforts. Last year, Hawai'i residents went through 895 million glass bottles, cans, and plastic bottles. Of the 895 million, there were 186 million plastic bottles. We had a 79% redemption rate and 147 million plastic bottles were recycled. However, 39 million bottles ended up in the landfill or became litter. It's important for the state to lead by example, so I plan to introduce a bill in 2010 to prohibit state agencies from using public money to purchase single-serving bottled water. This policy is already in place in cities such as San Francisco and Seattle. I'm not sure when *Tapped* will be shown again, but I definitely recommend checking it out. In the meantime, you can watch the trailer at their website:



www.tappedthemovie.com

Hawai'i Environmental Council deserves our support

By Senator Mike Gabbard

Through a single action, we have an opportunity to save the state money, protect our environment, and avoid embarrassing mistakes like the Hawai'i Superferry situation. We can accomplish all of this by giving the Hawai'i Environmental Council (EC) the support it needs to do its job.

The EC is a 15-member body that serves as a liaison between the Office of Environmental Quality Control and the public. It's made up of dedicated, unpaid citizen volunteers from all the islands and from varied professional backgrounds, including business, education, planning, and the environmental community. Falling under the state Department of Health, the Council advises on issues dealing with environmental protection, specifically the Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Statement processes.

Each month, the OEQC receives roughly twenty to thirty EA and EIS applications for projects across the state. Government agencies often have to complete an EA or EIS before moving forward on public works that benefit our community. Since an efficient environmental review process benefits everyone, it's imperative that we have a functioning and effective Council to guide both the government and the private sector. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case.

On July 23 of this year, after months of struggling to do its job with inadequate resources, the Council voted to cease future meetings until the administration provided adequate meeting facilities for video conferencing, staff support, financial support for an annual report, and prompt approval of long-overdue appointments to bring the Council up to full membership.

Up to that point, the Council had endured months of unsatisfactory support from the administration. While the Council submitted updated administrative rules to the Governor's office over three years ago, those rules were never approved or sent out for public hearing. Nor did the Council ever learn why the rules were rejected.

On September 8, I wrote Dr. Chiyome Fukino, the Director of Department of Health (DOH), asking her to inform me of her plan to remedy this situation. When I didn't receive a timely response, the Senate Energy and Environment Committee—which I chair—held a hearing to seek answers. While the DOH agreed before the hearing to offer the Council a better meeting room, it would not commit to ensuring that the Council would have the support and resources it needed to function.

We are faced with the fact that the administrative rules for environmental review have not been updated since 1996, despite years of effort by the Council to revise them. Without guidance from the Council, government agencies are stuck with old lists for determining whether a project should be exempt from environmental review, and so may have to do EISs just to be safe, wasting valuable state funds. And at the same time, we have projects like the Superferry that try to get by without a review where clearly one is needed. We need to be spending fewer resources on the small projects that don't harm the environment and more on those that could potentially have a negative impact. A diverse citizen's advisory body can help ensure appropriate balance in the process, and that our environment is protected.

The current situation is penny wise and pound foolish; it has to change. The Council is a critical part of our efforts to keep Hawai'i a beautiful place. The fact that the Council cannot meet right now could have dire environmental, social, and economic costs. If we commit to making the small investment in this hardworking body of citizens, we could serve government, the private sector, and the public in ways we all deserve.



Walk Across Oahu Comes Up Big for Kapolei Veteran

I was able to join the Walk Across Oahu Team and Sgt. Sualauvi "Malua" Tuimalealiifano at a special event on Veterans Day at the State Capitol. At the ceremony, my colleagues and I presented the team with an honorary certificate from the State Legislature for their big efforts for our wounded warriors.

City and County of Honolulu employees, Tofi Mika Jr., Yvette Lee, and John Cummings III, organized and participated in the 3-day, 135-mile Walk Across Oahu for disabled war veterans and wounded warriors in November. The 3-person team started their walk on November 8th at Yokohama Bay and finished on Veterans Day, November 11th, at the Oahu Veterans Center.

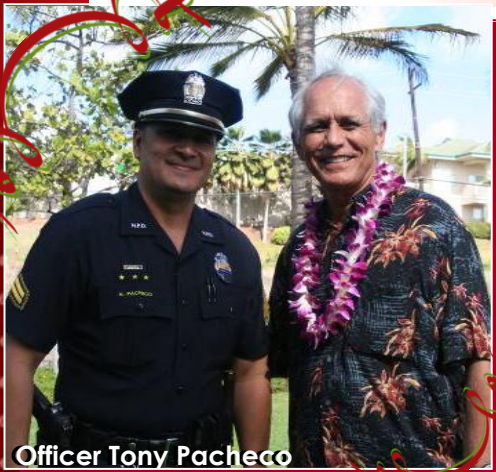
Tofi, the team's leader, had wanted to do something to honor Sgt. Tuimalealiifano, his childhood friend, after hearing that he had been paralyzed when he was thrown off his Army Humvee during a battle with the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2007. Tofi was even more humbled after hearing that Malua had gotten right back into serving by reaching out to and counseling disabled war veterans upon his return to Hawai'i.



Sgt. Tuimalealiifano lives in Kapolei with his wife and 3 kids. During the ceremony, representatives from Watts Constructors made a surprise announcement that they were donating a \$10,000 check and the \$178,000 worth of needed renovations for the Sergeant's home in Kapolei.



Drive Safe This Holiday Season



Officer Tony Pacheco

2009 Drive Safe 4 Ewa & Kapolei Campaign Saves Lives

I participated in the 2009 Drive Safe 4 Ewa & Kapolei campaign kick-off event at the Kapolei Police Station on November 21st. This is a month-long event dedicated to encouraging safe driving during the Christmas Season, a time when crashes, drunk driving, and fatalities are at their peak. The Drive Safe 4 Ewa & Kapolei campaign is well-known for placing crashed cars at busy intersections as a startling reminder of what can happen as a result of drinking and driving. These efforts are coupled with several days of sign waving. The campaign focuses on increasing awareness in the Ewa, Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Makakilo, Ko 'Olina, Honokai Hale & Kalaeloa communities.

This year's campaign included a poster contest between Kapolei and Campbell High School students with prizes of up to \$100. The contest gives teenagers an opportunity to consider how drinking and driving or participation in other reckless activities can negatively impact their lives and others. This year's winners were Campbell High senior Caslene Joy Bulan (1st place), Campbell High senior Kevin Domingo (2nd place), Campbell High senior Kaniala Kaleo (3rd place), and Kapolei High senior Natasha Gemine (4th place).

Drive Safe 4 Ewa & Kapolei is a coordinated effort between my office, the Honolulu Police Department, Ewa Weed & Seed, Hale Pono Boys & Girls Club, Ewa Beach Lions Club, Kapolei City Lions Club, both Campbell and Kapolei High Schools, Kaimiloa Elementary School, Schnitzer Steel, Councilman Todd Apo, and Councilman Nestor Garcia. Sponsors include Allstate Foundation, DR Horton Schuler, Hawai'i Medical Center, and Haseko.

Sign-holding will be at the locations and times below. For more information, please contact my office at 586-6830.

Kapolei Price Busters is open for business! The new store is 12,500 square feet & located at Kapolei Commons Shopping Center. Below is a photo from the Grand Opening celebration on November 7th with (L to R) Dave Kimler, Executive Vice President; Beth Tom, President and Owner; Michael Tom, Kapolei Assistant Store Manager; Gail Haraguchi, Director of the City's Department of Customer Services; Rep. Sharon Har; and Senator Mike Gabbard.

2009 "Drive Safe" Sign Waving Schedule

Fort Weaver Road near Hawaii Medical Center West

Dec. 15, 2009 – 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 29, 2009 – 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Intersection at Farrington Hwy & Fort Barrette Road

Dec. 22, 2009 – 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Dec. 29, 2009 – 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.



Caslene

1st



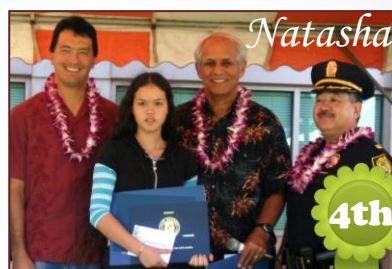
Kevin

2nd



Kaniala

3rd



Natasha

4th

