



Legislative Update from...

Senator Mike Gabbard

October
2015

Aloha e Friends,

Our recent heat wave has brought into full focus the fact that many of our public schools don't have air conditioning. It's critical that we, as legislators, put the needed funding toward the electrical upgrades, air conditioning, and innovative low cost solutions, like "cool roofs" to solve this problem sooner, rather than later. There's no excuse for our keiki suffering in hot classrooms that make it difficult to learn.

I plan to host an Education Town Hall Meeting in our district by the end of the year. We'll have presentations by education experts and also allow folks to weigh in. I'll be getting the word out to the community in the coming weeks and will definitely include an announcement in my November newsletter. As always, feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email 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 <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

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District 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaheo, and Waipahu



Sen. Gabbard attended the Kapolei Lofts Celebration on Sept. 3, to welcome its first tenants and present an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Legislature to Jon Wallenstrom, President of Forest City. Governor David Ige and Mayor Kirk Caldwell presented a proclamation and declared September 3 "Kapolei Lofts Day." Kapolei Lofts was built on the lot across from the Foodland in Kapolei at the corner of Kapolei Parkway and Wakea Street.

(Pictured L-R: Sen. Mike Gabbard, Kapolei Properties LLC President Brad Myers, Gov. David Ige, Mayor Kirk Caldwell, Forest City Hawaii President Jon Wallenstrom, and Rep. Sharon Har.)



Senator Gabbard met with his daughter, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard in DC, along with Vincent Mina, Hawai'i Farmers Union United (HFUU) President. The Senator and Congresswoman Gabbard will be keynote speakers at the HFUU conference in November.

Aloha + Challenge's Synergy with the World Conservation Conference

Last year, the state and counties came together to launch what is called the Aloha+ Challenge, a shared statewide commitment to 6 interconnected sustainability targets to be achieved by 2030. These include:

1. **Clean energy:** Achieve 70 percent clean energy, including 40 percent from renewable sources and 30 percent from efficiency. *(Continued, p. 2)*
2. **Local food:** Double local food production with a goal of 20 to 30 percent of food consumed being grown locally.
3. **Natural resource management:** Increase watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species prevention and control, and restoration of native species.
4. **Waste reduction:** Reduce solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent through source reduction, recycling and bioconversion.
5. **Smart sustainable communities:** Increase livability through planning and implementation at the state and county levels.
6. **Green workforce and education:** Increase local green jobs and education to implement these targets.

As you may have heard, the World Conservation Congress is coming to Hawai'i September 1 – 10, 2016. This is like the Superbowl of environmental sustainability and is the first time the U.S. is hosting the event. It will bring 8,000-10,000 delegates from 160 nations.

We have an incredible once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase our unique island solutions on sustainability during this event.

So in the coming months that lead up to the 2016 legislative session which begins in January, I'll be working with my colleagues and those who work in the sustainability sector on an Aloha + Challenge legislative package that will showcase on a world stage our state's commitment to sustainability.



Sen. Gabbard went on a Kaua'i site visit with a team from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on September 28, in his new role as Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee for the State. Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair of the House Water and Land Committee, and Sen. Gabbard stand on the edge of Waimea Canyon after surveying invasive species, watersheds, hunting areas, trails, and other DLNR projects.



Sen. Gabbard toured Parker Ranch on the Big Island August 28, to learn about their agriculture and energy operations. Founded in 1847, it's one of the oldest ranches in the country. (Pictured L-R: Kaala Coleman-Inouye Staff; Keoki Wood, Livestock Operations Manager; Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Jason Van Tassel, Livestock Operations Manager; Angela Thomas-Inouye Staff; and Brandi Beaudet, Government & Community Engagement Manager)

Sustainable Community Food Systems

The average age of farmers in our state is 60. So we need new blood in this very important profession. The good news is that this fall the new bachelor of applied science in sustainable community food systems was established at UH West O'ahu (UHWO). I met with Dr. Albie Miles, an Assistant Professor of Sustainable Food Systems at UHWO, on September 23rd to learn more. He was instrumental in getting this program going. The new concentration incorporates problem-based and hands-on learning to develop food system professionals who value ecological sustainability.

The UHWO Student Organic Garden is one of the cool resources used by the program, which is a living laboratory where students directly apply the theoretical knowledge taught in the classroom. UHWO happens to be the only UH campus that is offering this degree. Here are some of the careers that graduates with this degree program can consider: natural resource management, agriculture and food policy, sustainable inputs and value-added food businesses, social enterprise and non-profit organization management, certified organic agriculture production and research, social work, and K-12 education. I'll be collaborating with Dr. Miles on potential sustainable agriculture legislation in my role as the Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee.

Emergency Shelters in Our Community

We've had several close calls with hurricanes looming out in the Pacific as of late. A reminder where the Hurricane Evacuation Shelters are located within our community: Barbers Point Elementary, Kapolei Elementary, Kapolei High, Kapolei Middle, Makakilo Elementary, Mauka Lani Elementary, and Waipahu Intermediate. None of these shelters are listed as Pet Friendly. The closest Pet Friendly Shelters would be Campbell High, Ilima Intermediate, Kaimiloa Elementary, Waipahu Elementary, and Waipahu High. Just so you know, if you take your pet to a Pet Friendly shelter, the animal must be caged for safety reasons and the owners must provide it food and water. Also, all of these shelters won't necessarily be opened in an emergency. So it's important to check with local news media once those announcements are made.



Kaua'i Site Visit with Department of Land and Natural Resources Team

Rep. Ryan Yamane, Chair of the House Water and Land Committee and I went on a Kaua'i site visit with a team from the Department of Land and Natural Resources on September 28th. The site visit focused on locations that demonstrate watershed forest protection, public hunting opportunities, rare species restoration, timber management, invasive species control, and post-fire restoration. We took a helicopter to view the Alakai Boardwalk Trail, Kula Natural Area Reserve, and the Kokee Post-Fire Restoration area. The information we gathered will be critical as I work on legislation for 2016 in my role as the Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee.



You can download the ReadyHawaii App for free through iTunes or Google Play that will provide this information. If you have any questions, you can contact the Department Emergency Management at 723-8960.

Makakilo Drive Extension Update

I know there's a lot of strong interest in the Makakilo community about getting the Makakilo Drive Extension project going. I'm 100% behind making this important road project happen as quickly as possible. Here's the latest update from the City Department of Transportation Services in a question/answer format. I've made minor edits for clarity.

Do you have any date as to when the construction will actually begin on the project?

Right now we are still in the early Design phase of the project. We are in the process of revising the original Environmental Assessment (EA) to do a "fill" instead of the initially proposed bridge to tie into the existing end of Makakilo Drive. Once we get the EA approved, we will work on the final design. Our consultant has already done their full topography study, so that portion has already been completed. Right now, our consultant has funding to do 50% of the design. We are putting in the last 50% of the design funds into the FY17 City budget pending approval. I'm anticipating another 2 years after that to get all the plans approved and finalized. So construction will probably not be until 2019, again pending available funds.

We heard there were new modifications that could lower the cost of the roadway by not having "the bridge" constructed. Have those modifications been solidified or is that just in the realm of possibilities rather than the actual project?

The "fill" instead of the "bridge" will reduce the price by the millions. However, until we get the final design set, the costs vary with each modification.

There have been statements that there is some kind of Department of Transportation priority list (O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Improvement Plan) that over the years, the Makakilo Drive Extension project has been "back-burnered." Do you know if the project has reached the stage where it will actually go into construction?

I would not say that it's been "back-burnered" BUT, the City does have a limit as to how much federal funding we receive every year. This has not changed. Right now,

most of our federal funds are going to the Joint Traffic Management Center (JTMC) which is currently in construction at the corner of Alapai Street and King Street. Also on this list is the Salt Lake Widening Project and the Farrington Highway Widening Project. So generally the City only gets funding to do one of these large projects at a time. Again it all depends which project is ready to go when the funding becomes available.

Waipahu High Academies Earn Accolades

A big shout-out to Principal Keith Hiyashi and his team at Waipahu High School for having two academies at the school being accredited by the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) as National Model Academies last month. The academies are Health & Sciences and Natural Resources and are among only 72 in the entire nation to have received this distinction. Waipahu High will be recognized at the 19th NCAC Annual Conference in Louisville, Kentucky on November 5 -7, 2015. Way to go Marauders!



Honoring Christina Kaleikini

It was a little belated, but I finally got the opportunity to surprise 2015 American Renaissance Academy valedictorian with an honorary certificate from the State Senate on September 27th at the Kapolei Costco. Christina is an only child and lives in Wai'anae with her proud parents, Joe and Lacri. Christina is now studying at Chaminade University, taking classes in biology, anatomy, and chemistry. She plans to pursue a career in radiology and definitely has a bright future ahead of her. I wish Christina the best of luck in all her future endeavors.