



Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard

April  
2016

*Aloha e Friends,*

Hope this finds you and your 'ohana well. We're at the three-quarter mark in the Legislative Session and we're coming down to the wire in terms of which bills live and which ones die. Please contact me at 586-6830 or [sen-gabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sen-gabbard@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 [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](http://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

### COMMITTEE CHAIR

**Water, Land & Agriculture**

### MEMBER

**Transportation & Energy**

**Judiciary and Labor**

**Higher Education and the Arts**

### District 20

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



### **Listen Story Community Meeting**

As we near the end of session on May 5, where decisions are being made on hundreds of bills, I won't be holding my community meeting in April, but will be giving a wrap-up of all the session highlights (and maybe lowlights?) at my next "Listen Story" meeting on Saturday, May 7 at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge, next to the

cafeteria, 9-10am. If you can't make it, send me an email, and I'll send you a summary of the meeting.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Funding for East Kapolei High School Released!**

I'm pleased to announce that Governor David Ige has released \$5 million in funding that the Senate appropriated two years ago for a new high school in Kapolei! Capital Improvement Project Funds are requested each year on behalf of the residents of each Senator's District to support infrastructure and contribute to building for the future of our keiki and all the residents of Hawai'i. The released funds will be used to provide the design of the planned East Kapolei High School, which is estimated to be completed April 2018.

### **Warming Up: As Droughts Continue, Hawaii Must Protect its Fresh Water**

(This editorial, written by Sen. Mike Gabbard and Rep. Ryan Yamane was published in the *Star Advertiser*, on Sunday, March 27, 2016.)

Last October, after an unseasonable and unprecedented rainy summer, the U.S. Drought Monitor declared that for the first time since April 15, 2008 no part of our island chain was suffering from drought. For seven long years, our farmers, ranchers and citizens had endured a prolonged dry period throughout Hawai'i that caused cattle herds to be thinned, crops to suffer and spiked our rate of forest fires. Unfortunately, our relief was short-lived.

Today, just five months later, 54 percent of our island area is again locked in "moderate drought" and 100 percent of our islands are "abnormally dry." As we live through one of the largest El Niño events on record, our islands may get even drier through 2016. Why is this happening now? Long-term climate change trends seem to be bringing drought to Hawai'i more frequently. Over the past 30 years as temperatures have risen, our average annual... Please see **Warming Up**, p. 2



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rainfall amount has fallen by a staggering 22 percent. Our beloved tradewind days have declined by 28 percent — from an average of 291 trade wind days in 1973 to only 210 in 2009. And when we do get rain, increasingly it tends to come in large — even epic — events where several inches may fall in just a few hours, causing stormwater runoff instead of the soft, gentle rains that slowly seep into the soil and our precious island aquifers for later use.

The Legislature understands that water is the lifeblood of our society, and long-term fresh water security is a key element to our economic health and our unique quality of life. Even as we address critical issues such as homelessness and health care this session, we acknowledge the need to work proactively to protect our fresh water supply.

We have watched the sobering experience of California as it suffered through \$2.74 billion in damage to its economy in 2015 alone as a result of the ongoing drought and water supply problems — and the clear lesson is that a few ounces of prevention are far better than many tons of cure. We are moving to preserve our supply of the best drinking water in the world with innovative new solutions and policies.

Last year in 2015, the Legislature passed several key bills signed by Gov. David Ige that will help enable water infrastructure upgrades, encourage water recycling at state facilities, and capture stormwater runoff before it enters our oceans.

This legislative session we are building on this foundation with another comprehensive package of fresh water bills that will decrease water system leaks (House Bill 2041); foster public-private partnerships to reuse, conserve and recharge our water (House Bills 2029 and 2040); commit to statewide water reuse and recycling (House Bill 1749); improve storm water retention and capture (House Bill 1750); and provide incentives to residents who adopt water-saving devices in their homes (House Bill 2042).

In concert with these policy changes, the independent, nonprofit Hawai'i Community Foundation recently released a report from a blue-ribbon commission that said to ensure water security, Hawaii must secure 100 million gallons a day in additional, reliable fresh water supply by 2030 even as less rain falls on our Islands.

We have embraced this challenge and will continue to improve our water policies in ways that move us toward this shared statewide goal. While these policy changes are an important start, all of us need to work together planting trees, turning off the tap, and — most importantly — teaching our keiki the value of wai in order to truly protect our shared water future.



### **Kalaeloa Professional Center Offices Ready for Leasing**

I was invited to tour the model office suite of Kalaeloa's new professional center at 91-1010 Shangrila Street on March 2. With 27 office suites just minutes from the heart of Kapolei, the opening of the Kalaeloa Professional Center ("KPC") is another milestone toward the second city becoming an area where we can live, work, and play.

The building was formerly operated by the Department of the Navy as a medical/dental clinic. The Warrior Ohana Medical Clinic, a Tripler Army Medical facility, has occupied a portion of the building since its renovation in 2011. The KPC Pau Hana Open House was hosted and sponsored by Hunt Companies.



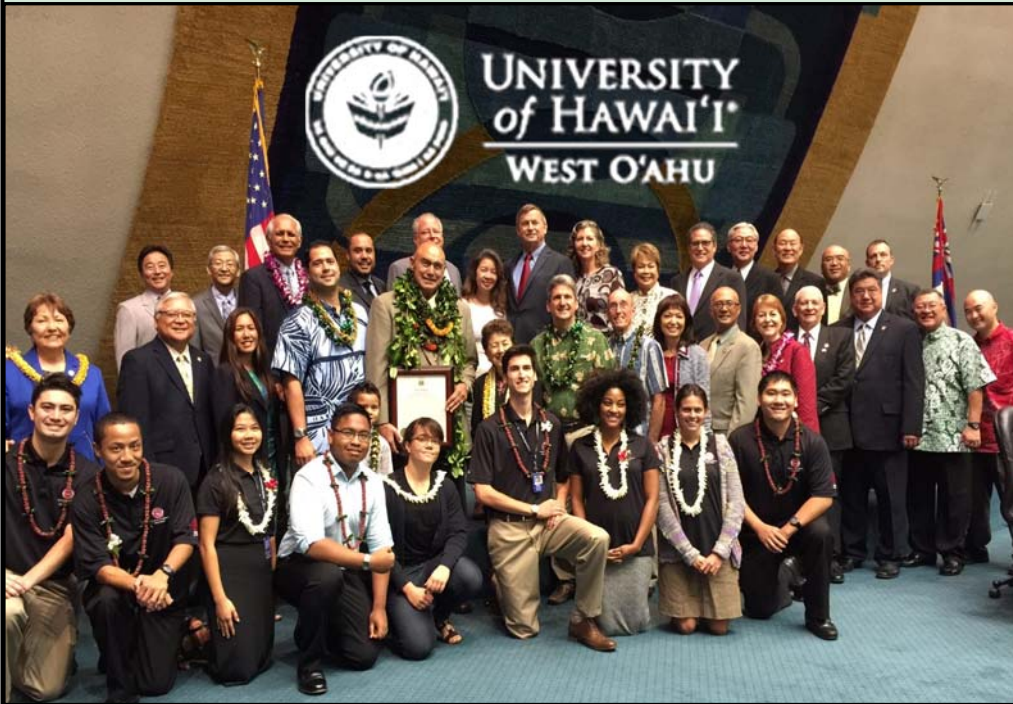
### **World Wildlife Day**

Kristin Bauer van Straten, an IFAW (International Fund for Animal Welfare) ambassador since early 2009, dedicates her time/energy to whale conservation and elephant programs. She was here in Hawai'i to moderate the World Wildlife Day panel at the State Capitol. On her left, Tony Hunstiger, who sits on the Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Foundation Board of Directors, attended the wildlife forum, to show his commitment to the work of preserving endangered species and their habitat. (I had to teach her a bona fide "shaka"...not bad, huh?) Hawai'i has the dubious distinction of being known as the "Endangered Species Capital of the World"

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## LEGISLATIVE HONOREES

### UH West O'ahu's 40th Anniversary!



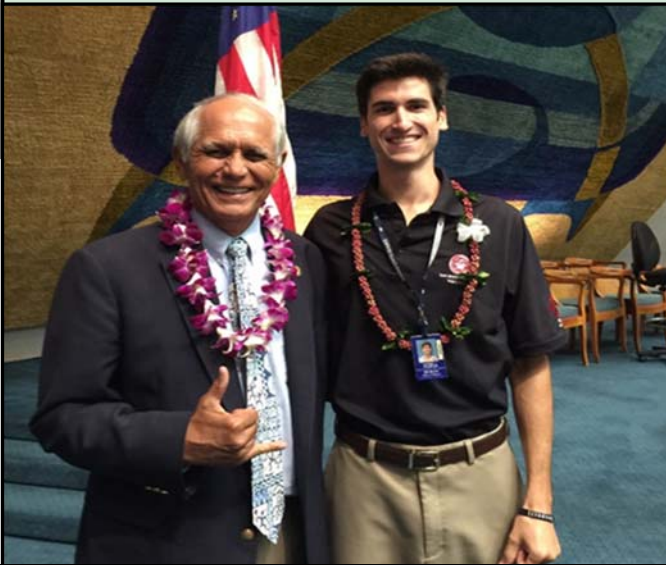
On March 23, the State Senate joined in celebrating UH West O'ahu's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by honoring its Senior Executives and nine Legislative Interns. With immediate past Chancellor, Dr. Rockne Freitas retiring and recognizing UHWO's internship program, it was an exciting day for all of us.

UHWO's Regent Chair, Randy Moore; David Lassner, UH's ten-campus President and UHWO's Interim Chancellor, Dr. Doris Ching have made the commitment to our state and university to make this "first of its kind" internship program.

These nine industrious young men and women are leading the way for future students to get involved with the

political process here in Hawai'i nei, (L-R) Patrick Alvior, Angelo McDuffie, Joy-leanne Santos, Isaiah Baclaan, Ana Lillis, my office's very own George Kalantzis, Marousha Moore, Tori McCann, & Ronie Augustin.

I was able to extend a special Mahalo to the mentors who spur on each of these students; Ken Inouye, Russell Kokubun, Dwight Takamine and Rufino Dan Magliba. These mentors are the bridge between who they are, and who they can become. Congratulations, UH West O'ahu Leadership 'Ohana and Capitol Class of 2016; you make our district proud!



### Let's hear it for the Hawai'i Bicycling League!

The Senate honored the Hawai'i Bicycling League in the Senate Chambers on March 15. Founded in 1975, the Hawai'i Bicycling League is O'ahu's oldest and largest cycling organization, encouraging more bike riding in the community and advocating for positive changes that will help make Hawai'i a cycling paradise.

A non-profit organization, Hawai'i Bicycling League also advocates for bike lanes and overall bike safety in the community. I worked closely with Executive Director, Chad Taniguchi to introduce a resolution (SCR 128/SR 95) to urge the Department of Transportation

to begin construction on the Leeward Bikeway before the end of 2016. The Leeward Bikeway is a proposed thirteen-mile paved multi-use path, eight to twelve feet wide with two-foot shoulders, to be constructed next to the former O'ahu Railway & Land Company railroad tracks on the leeward side of O'ahu. Its completion will make O'ahu more pedestrian and bicycle friendly.

### Shout Out to George Kalantzis

I recently honored this fine young man, George Kalantzis, who is interning in my office this session, along with eight of his fellow interns, on the Senate floor with a Certificate from the State Senate. George moved to Hawai'i from Virginia with his family just over a year ago. Transferring to UH West Oahu in the spring of 2015, he is currently a senior studying Political Science and plans to explore the renewable energy industry here in Hawai'i once he graduates. With no small goal in mind, George wants to apply himself towards bringing the world to a sustainable future.

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**Bicycling League** *Continued from p. 3*

Community advocates have long pushed for the completion of a multi-use path linking the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail to Nanakuli to give Leeward O’ahu residents another transportation option to work and school. As Vice-Chair of the Committee on Transportation and Energy, I'm happy to report we passed the resolution on March 29.



**Moment of Contemplation**

A “Moment of Contemplation” is an opportunity for Senators to express a meaningful sentiment in the form of a quote or individual remarks to their colleagues in the Senate body. As we begin our floor session each day in the Senate Chambers, it serves to set the tone... Sometimes Senators will invite their staff to stand in for them.

Recently, in honor of her 25th birthday, I invited Angel Doane-Mau, my Legislative Assistant for session 2016, to take my spot. Angel was born and raised on Maui, and moved to O’ahu in 2013. Previously, with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Angel brings an abundance of positive energy and aloha to the office, where we’ve enjoyed having her very much. On this particular occasion, Angel presented a mele, reminding us to Aloha our “kuleana” (“responsibility” in



Hawaiian.) He mele no Lele was composed by Keali’i Reichel and taught to her by her kumu hula Luana Kawa’a. This mele speaks of Lāhaina’s dependence on Mauna Kahalawai for water and the traditional places of Hawai’i’s First Capitol. Mahalo Angel for gifting us with a mele reminding us to Aloha our kuleana.

**SAVE THE DATE**

<b>April 9</b>	<u>Healthy Kids Day</u> – Bishop Museum, 9am-2pm
<b>April 11</b>	<u>Dr. Oppenlander</u> – Capitol Auditorium, 7pm-8:30pm (Refreshments 6:30pm)
<b>April 12</b>	<u>Chamber Music Hawai’i Concert</u> at UHWO, 7:00pm - 9:00pm
<b>April 16</b>	<u>“Dream it. See it. Be it.”</u> - Kapolei Public Library, 10:30am-11:30am, <a href="tel:808-693-7050">808-693-7050</a>
<b>April 19</b>	<u>Capitol Ido!</u> – State Capitol, 5:30pm-7:30pm
<b>April 23</b>	<u>6th Annual Leeward Music Festival</u> – Kroc Center, 6pm
<b>April 30</b>	<u>3rd Annual Ko Olina Children’s Film &amp; Music Festival</u>

**World Wildlife Day** *Continued from p.2*

- with less than 1% of the U.S. land mass, 44% of the nation's endangered and threatened plants live here in paradise.

According to a 2008 study (Esmond Martin & Daniel Stiles. (2008) Ivory Markets in the USA), Hawaii is the nation’s third largest market for ivory, after New York and California. Both of those states have shut down their in-state market for ivory in 2014 and 2015 respectively. This means we could soon be the largest market in the U.S.

To help bring awareness to these critical issues, I participated in a panel on "World Wildlife Day" on March 3, moderated by “True Blood” actress and IFAW Ambassador, Kristin Bauer van Straten, to discuss preserving endangered species and their habitat.

I also introduced SB 2647 (an expanded version of the ivory sales ban bill from last session that didn’t make it ) to confront the endangered species issue and our state’s place in this illegal trade.

SB 2647 is much more comprehensive and would ban people selling or offering for sale, purchasing, trading, or bartering for any part or product from the following animal species: elephant, rhino, hippo, lions, pangolins, cheetah, jaguar, or leopard and marine species, such as sea turtles, monk seals, narwhal, whales, walrus, sharks, manta rays, as well as mammoth.

Just to be clear, this bill wouldn't allow the state to come into someone's home and take their ivory. There are also exemptions for antiques, inheritance, museums, musical instruments, guns & knives, and Traditional Native Hawaiian practices. It will allow the state to partner with federal agencies, like US Fish and Wildlife and NOAA to crack down on the illegal ivory trade.