



Aloha e Friends,

Opening Day of the 2016 Legislative Session was January 20, and it was great to see so many of you stop by the office. Be sure to check out the photos on my [Flickr](#) and [Facebook](#) photo albums. We served out over 100 plates of the Gabbard's renowned, delicious, homemade Hawaiian Toffee Treasures, along with oatmeal cookies and tea. Thanks to all of you who took the time to come by and say hello. As always, I encourage you to participate in the political process. Many of you submitted ideas that have led to bill proposals that are now being scheduled. You can track bills, get signed up to receive committee hearing notices, and submit testimony at the Capitol website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov. See the back page of my newsletter for steps on how to submit testimony.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

Water, Land & Agriculture

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Higher Education and the Arts

District 20

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

Listen Story Community Meeting

My next "Listen Story" community meeting is on February 27, 2016, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Ewa Mahiko District Park, 91-1161 Renton Road, Ewa Beach.



Sen. Gabbard met with 74 students, grades 6-12 from Friendship Christian Schools, in the Senate Chambers on January 21.

Legislative Priorities

This session will be my first as Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee (WLA). My focus will be on local food production, the conservation of our land and oceans, industrial hemp, and fighting invasive species.

I've been working with the Hawai'i Farmers Union United (HFUU) to introduce two bills focused on soil health: one establishes a "Nutrient Cycling" center on Maui to demonstrate an alternative path to cycle food and other organic waste back into our food system by turning it into fertilizer. The other establishes an "On-Farm Mentoring" program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm systems approach to agriculture. A few of the 61 bills I'm introducing this session follow:

Nutrient Cycling ([SB 2138](#))

This bill appropriates \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2016-2017 to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the establishment of a nutrient cycling center pilot project on Maui, including costs for program operations, equipment, regulatory compliance, land development and leasing, administration, personnel, and contaminant testing. Nutrient cycling fosters agricultural production by building soil health and fertility. Without nutrient cycling, nutrients flow from farmland into aquifers and shorelines, which depletes nutrients in the soil and forces farmers to use commercial fertilizers; decreases soil health and species diversity; increases pesticide use; and reduces the nutrient density of food. Nutrient cycling benefits local agriculture by lowering production costs, increasing yields, and leaving soil in a revitalized condition.

Community-based Marine Management ([SB 2139](#))

One of the biggest challenges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) faces is the lack of funding it receives to carry out its responsibilities in protecting our state lands and waters. After participating in several site visits with DLNR staff and my colleagues, I saw first-hand the important work they're doing and where we need to focus our energies. I've been working with The Nature Conservancy to increase staffing at DLNR for community-based marine management. Marine and coastal ecosystems provide food, shoreline protection against storms and floods, and help with water quality maintenance. Unfortunately, many of these ecosystems have become degraded.

Industrial Hemp ([SB 2659](#))

In 2014, I introduced legislation which resulted in a two-year study to determine the optimal hemp strain for growth in Hawai'i. (No, uncle, you can't get high smoking hemp!) Now, we're poised to establish an industrial hemp program under the Department of Agriculture (DOA) enabling farmers to register with the DOA to grow hemp for agricultural and academic research, including the commercial sale of hemp for marketing and industry development. My vision is to develop a cottage industry, offering "Hawaiian Hemp Shampoo," "Hawaiian Hemp Granola," "Hawaiian Hempcrete" (a building material used instead of concrete...), etc. This would be a wonderful thing for Hawai'i! Check out the excellent documentary "Bringing It Home."

Invasive Species ([SB 2799](#))

On December 4, I co-hosted an informative briefing with the Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) on the invasive species' impact on Hawai'i. Invasive species continue to wreak havoc on our āina. Although many of these species are illegal here, these pests tend to thrive due to our year-round temperate weather. Hawai'i has a responsibility to our keiki and the islands that we cherish, to be diligent with our response to invasive species. During the briefing, we heard from state departments and organizations tasked with implementing programs for the prevention, control, research, and outreach related to invasive species. Some of these groups included: The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii Invasive Species Council, DOA Plant Quarantine Branch, DOA Plant Pest Control Branch, Invasive Species Communities, DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife, DLNR division of Aquatic Resources, and the Watershed Partnerships. I'd like to see us dedicate \$10 million each biennium for invasive species efforts. I'll be working with my colleagues to supplement the \$4.75 million we appropriated last session. I'll also be supporting the Governor's efforts to create the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority—an agency attached to the DOA, aimed at strengthening the work of HISC.

Sen. Gabbard co-hosted a briefing held by the Hawaii Invasive Species Committee (HISC) on Dec. 4.



Sen. Gabbard with a few of the 'Aha Moku 'ohana members on opening day. Leslie, Kuloloio, Annie & Tom Hashimoto from Kaua'i, 'Ulu & Richard Ho'opi'i from Maui, Leimana DeMate, Rocky Kaluhiwa, from O'ahu, & Winnie Basques from Lana'i.

On-Farm Mentoring ([SB 2137](#))

The purpose of this bill is to improve food security and self-sufficiency in the state by encouraging the development and implementation of a whole farm system approach to agriculture. It establishes an on-farm mentoring program within the DOA that would provide financial support to existing on-farm mentoring programs to teach farmers about methods to improve soil health. Methods include using whole farm systems that practice sustainable agriculture; as well as, recycling locally available organic and diverse plant and animal agricultural nutrients, enhanced by fermentation. In addition, other ecological processes such as Korean Natural Farming (KNF), would be taught. KNF involves collecting and culturing indigenous microorganisms (IMO) and reintroducing them into a managed agro ecosystem. While it has been used for decades, it was only introduced to Hawai'i in 1999. The bill would require the Board of Agriculture (BOA) Chair to appoint one more on-farm mentor on each island with a population greater than 5,000 (he may appoint an on-farm mentor for Lana'i). It would

direct the DOA to establish the on-farm mentoring program curriculum in collaboration with the Hawai'i Farmers Union United Education Committee; and, require the DOA to provide grants to support existing on-farm mentoring programs and a pilot on-farm mentoring program in Maui County; including an appropriation of \$500,000 in Fiscal Year 2016-2017.



JADAM Organic Farming: Low Cost Agriculture

On January 22, I had the privilege of meeting the foundational 'ohana of JADAM Natural Pesticide Institute, which specializes in Organic Farming. JADAM means "people that resemble nature." JADAM is a global network of farmers sharing knowledge and connecting experience in a continuously evolving system. The Jadam Organic Farming movement has sprung from the work of Cho Young-sang, who has developed an environmentally and farmer-friendly philosophy. He launched the Jadam movement after founding the Natural Pesticide Research Center in Korea. JADAM educates others in the revolutionary method of farming based on oriental philosophy. When applied, this philosophy can cut farming costs to about \$100/acre without using any petro-chemical inputs. It uses a method of fully cultivating on-farm generated fertility; which is a farming technique to produce, recycle, and rejuvenate the soil and yield, in a self-sustaining fashion. Local farmers and agriculturalists from the Hawai'i Farmers Union United collaborated with JADAM to share mana'o or wisdom passed down from generation to generation to shine light on Hawai'i's future in agriculture. I enjoyed seeing David Wong again, and also meeting Hyunho Cha, Deborah Mader, Sunhwa Ju, Rei Yoon, Youngsang Cho, Alika Atai, Ken Ku'ike, and Brian Bartalini.

Kapolei Traffic Relief

Honolulu police are now monitoring and directing afternoon traffic congestion at Kalaeloa Boulevard and Farrington Highway in Kapolei. Officers will be posted at the two-way stop from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, through mid-2018. DOT Director Ford Fuchigami said the police presence is a way "to deliver immediate traffic



Map courtesy of KHON2.com

relief" to motorists using Kalaeloa Boulevard, the main feeder to Kapolei Business Park and Campbell Industrial Park, and which also serves Kapolei Commons and Costco. The installation of a permanent traffic signal at Kalaeloa Boulevard and Farrington Highway is in the design phase. The state is also moving forward with the Kapolei

Interchange Complex project. In 2011, the DOT completed the first phase, which includes a westbound on-ramp from Makakilo Drive. The second phase will include an off-ramp to Farrington Highway, exiting near the Wet 'n' Wild Water Park. The project's second phase is scheduled for completion in mid-2018. The state plans to build more on- and off-ramps and side roads after the Kapolei Interchange Complex is completed.

Visit the [O'ahu Metropolitan Planning Organization \(OMPO\) website](#) to learn more. A searchable, interactive map is provided to enable visitors to view current status of various road projects.



Sen. Gabbard with the JADAM 'ohana: David Wong, Hyunho Cha, Deborah Mader, Sunhwa Ju, Rei Yoon, Youngsang Cho, Alika Atai, Ken Ku'ike, and Brian Bartalini.

EV Charging Station

A new electric vehicle charging station has opened up in Kapolei! It's located right near the Ruby Tuesday restaurant in Kapolei Commons. I love my Nissan Leaf, which I purchased in 2011, but sometimes it's not easy to locate charging stations when you need them. The one in Kapolei supports the standard CHAdeMO connection (used mostly by Japanese and Korean EVs, such as the Nissan Leaf, Mitsubishi i-MiEV and Kia Soul EV). This is part of HECO's five-year demonstration to install, own and operate up to 25 fast chargers in their service territories. The utility said additional sites are now being scouted on O'ahu and other islands.



Sen. Gabbard test drove a 2016 Toyota Mirai on Jan. 12. This is the first hydrogen fuel cell vehicle in Hawai'i. Hydrogen is a renewable energy resource that can help us achieve our renewable energy goals and decrease the \$4 billion a year we spend on petroleum.

Queen Liliuokalani Trust Children's Center

The Queen Liliuokalani Trust was established by Hawai'i's last ruling monarch, Queen Liliuokalani, whose deed of trusts directs that assets be used to serve and provide for orphan children. A two-acre parcel has been purchased within the 40-acre Leihano development in Kapolei in West O'ahu, to build a children's center. The parcel is located across from Kapolei Regional Park, at the corner of Manawai Street and Kama'aha Avenue. Leihano is a mixed-use commercial and residential community development, with one-to-five-acre fee simple parcels for sale. Currently under construction are the Embassy Suites hotel and C.S. Wo & Sons' furniture store. Ilima senior community is scheduled to open to the public by the end of this month.

Kapolei Wins OIA Team Crown

Kapolei heavyweight Donte Keliiholokai brought home Kapolei's second Oahu Interscholastic Association (OAI) boys wrestling team crown. Keliiholokai's win gave Kapolei a 27-27 tie with Campbell. After three tiebreakers, the Kapolei Hurricanes won 28-27.

As a youth, I didn't wrestle but I did play high school football and was on the track team. I understand the sacrifice involved in team sports. Oceanic Time Warner Cable did a video shoot for a 1-2 min. spot that's being shown during sporting events breaks and halftimes on channel OC-16 – to motivate our keiki to be active and get engaged in sports. [You can see the brief clip they put together here](#), where I talk about the benefits of being involved in a sport: discipline, humility, teamwork, sacrifice; building friendships; and learning life lessons about sportsmanship and competition.

How to Submit Testimony Online

Anyone on a computer connected to the internet can use the Legislature's web-form to submit testimony.

1. **Type up your testimony** and save it on your computer.
2. Go online (open your web browser) and **go to the Legislature's website: www.capitol.hawaii.gov.**
3. Click on "**Register**" (**upper right-hand corner of the page**) and enter your name, email address and the password you'd like to use for the website. Adding your organization and phone number is optional. If you've used the sign-in feature of the website before, skip to step 6. If this is your first time using the sign-in feature of the website, continue with step 4.
4. Read the terms and conditions and then **click to agree** to them.
5. Go to your email account and **open the email sent to you by the website**, and follow the instructions for confirming your account.
6. Click on "**Sign In**" (**upper right-hand corner of the page**) and enter your email address and password.
7. **Click on the "Submit Testimony"** icon located in center screen.
8. **Enter the bill number** you're testifying on. (Enter the prefix and the number, no draft numbers and no spaces.) The hearing information (committee name, hearing room and date of hearing) will pop up. If there's not a hearing scheduled for that measure, you won't be able to continue. Check to make sure you use this format: enter "HB123" rather than "HB 123 HD1 SD1."
9. Your name and email address will appear in the form. Provide additional information such as whether you are testifying as an organization or individual, your position on the measure and whether you plan on being present at the hearing.
10. **Add your testimony.** Click on "**Choose File**" to find and select the document on your computer in which you've saved your testimony. (**Alternative:** If you'd like to submit your testimony in the body of the email, rather than attaching a file, just type your testimony into the "**Additional Comments**" box.)
11. **Don't forget to agree to the privacy terms** before you click "**Submit**" to send your testimony on its way! You'll get an email confirmation that it has been received.