

Legislative Update from...

# Senator Mike Gabbard

January  
2016

*Aloha e Friends,*

Happy New Year and best wishes to you and your 'ohana! Our Opening Day of the 2016 Legislative Session is on January 20<sup>th</sup>. I invite you to join me for refreshments in my office, Rm. 201, at noon at the State Capitol. And as always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

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## District 20

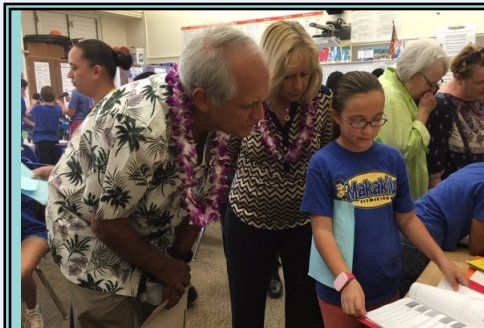
**Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu**

### “Listen Story Meeting”

My next community “Listen Story” meeting will be on **January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 9am to 10am** at the Kapolei High School Teachers’ Lounge.

### Last Call for Legislative Ideas

The last day I can introduce bills during the 2016 session is January 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have any ideas that you’d like to be considered for legislation, please contact my office. All you need is the basic concept and we can take it from there. We need several days to get the idea put into proper bill format, so let me know as soon as you can.



Sen. Gabbard visited Makakilo Elementary School on Dec. 11 to observe students involved in a national K-12 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) educational program, called, “Project Lead the Way,” where they engage in hands-on, project-oriented activities to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Ten year old, Maile Murdock shows Sen. Gabbard her project.

Senator Gabbard held the first-of-its kind West Oahu Education Town Hall Meeting on Dec. 1 at the University of Hawaii - West Oahu (UHWO). It was a successful evening with a good turnout and engaging presentations, culminating in an informative Q&A session. (Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard; Suzanne Mulcahy, Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support (DOE); Dr. Doris Ching, Interim Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Rep. Clarence Nishihara; Heidi Armstrong, Complex Area Superintendent for Campbell-



Kapolei; Sen. Will Espero; and Dann Carlson, Asst. Superintendent, Office of School Facilities & Support Services, Department of Education (DOE)

### Key Dates During the 2016 Legislative Session

- ◆ Opening Day (when the Legislative Session kicks off) – January 20
- ◆ Bill Introduction Cut Off (last day to introduce bills) – January 27
- ◆ First Crossover (when Senate bills cross over to the House and vice versa) – March 10
- ◆ Second Crossover (when Senate bills cross back over to the Senate and vice versa) - April 14
- ◆ Conference Committee (when Senate and House meet to work out differences in bills) – April 18-29
- ◆ Final Reading (when bills get a final vote in the Senate and House) – May 3
- ◆ Sine Die (last day of session) – May 5

## Focus on Fresh Water

I've been working with the Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) on legislation for the 2016 session, which focuses on fresh water. HCF was a key player in launching the Hawai'i Fresh Water Initiative in 2013 with the goal of increasing water security for the Hawaiian Islands. The Initiative relied on a blue ribbon advisory panel called the Fresh Water Council. Their single goal is to create 100 million gallons per day in additional, reliable fresh water capacity for our islands by 2030. Both Rep. Ryan Yamane, the Chair of the House Water and Land Committee, and I in my role as the Chair of the Senate Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee will be introducing 4 bills focused on this effort.

- ◆ Here are quick summaries of each:
- ◆ Hydroelectric Power on Agricultural Lands – would get rid of the 500 kW cap on hydroelectric power on agricultural land; replaces it with U.S. Department of Energy definition
- ◆ Public Water System Audit – would direct the Water Commission to head up audits of public water systems to see where there's waste
- ◆ Natural Capital Water Security – would establish a two-year pilot program to enable public-private partnerships that increase water security by providing state matching funds
- ◆ Residential Water Conservation Tax Credit – would create a tax credit for water efficiency measures, such as gray water recycling and catchment systems

## Staff Set for 2016 Session

I've got my staff all aboard for the 2016 Legislative Session. Meg Turner, who has been working as my scheduler, will be moving over to assume Office Manager duties for the session. She'll be your point of contact for any concerns or issues you may have. Angel Doane-Mau, who has been working at the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Bureau of Conveyances, will take over as my scheduler. Rock Riggs will move over to the Committee Clerk job and will be your principal contact for all issues related to my role as the Chair of the Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee. Donna Lay is also back as my Assistant Committee Clerk. We're all ready to serve you!



Senator Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates, along with Rep. Har, to Waianae Coast residents in recognition of the 30th Anniversary of the "Live and Let Live Campaign" for their contribution in founding it, in order to promote safe driving during the holidays. Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard presented remarks (via her staff) to the three honorees as well. Through the efforts of Ret. Lieutenant Francis Kealoha Kamakawiwo'ole, Bella Oclinaria, and Police Chaplain Wynn Warner, the "Live and Let Live" campaign has drawn national attention and now includes sign waving on all the major thoroughfares on the Leeward Coast spanning from Ewa Beach, Kapolei, Makakilo, Nanakuli, Maili, Waianae, and Makaha. There's also a poster contest which includes all the schools in the area. (Pictured from L-R: Vandeth Sek, Congresswoman Gabbard's staffer; Sen. Gabbard; Patricia Kamakawiwo'ole, wife of deceased Lt. Kamakawiwo'ole; Rep. Har; Bella Oclinaria; Clarence Oclinaria; Police Chaplain Wynn Warner; Walter Kamana, Son in law of Lt. Kamakawiwo'ole; Phyllis Kamana, Step daughter of Lt. Kamakawiwo'ole.)

## Kapolei Fairgrounds Development in Planning Stage

I often get questions from West O'ahu residents, who are interested in the plans for the Kapolei Fairgrounds (also known as the Northwest Corner), which is the open lot across from Walmart in Kapolei. The land is owned by the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC), which is a state agency tasked with developing affordable housing. HHFDC developed the entire Villages of Kapolei. OliverMcMillan won the request for proposals to develop the Kapolei Fairgrounds. They are in the midst of planning for a mixed use project with shops and affordable and market housing (total about 400 units), creating a special place for people to gather and enjoy a new neighborhood experience. Hunt Development will be responsible for building the affordable housing in the project. OliverMcMillan hopes to start construction by 2017 and be completed by 2019.



## Follow Up from Hawai'i Farmers Union United Convention

My daughter, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, and I were the keynote speakers at the Hawai'i Farmers Union (HFUU) Convention on Maui on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Since that time, I've been working on legislation they are supporting for the 2016 legislative session.

Here's a brief summary of two bills I plan to introduce on their behalf:

- ◆ On-Farm Mentoring - would establish an on-farm mentoring program to teach and train farmers to utilize a whole farm systems approach to agriculture. It would create a pilot on-farm mentoring program on Maui.
- ◆ Nutrient Cycling – would establish a pilot program to demonstrate an alternative path to cycle food and other organic waste back into our food system by turning it into fertilizer.



## Aloha to Barbers Point Elementary School Principal Claudia Nakachi

I recently learned that Barbers Point Elementary School Principal, Claudia Nakachi, retired on December 29<sup>th</sup>. Claudia has been a pillar of the Kalaeloa community for 18 years as principal of Barbers Point Elementary. She started her career with the Department of Education in 1983, when she became a 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Leihoku Elementary. She followed that up as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Waialua Elementary. From 1990 to 1997, she was the Vice Principal of Pohakea Elementary in Ewa Beach. When she became Principal at Barbers Point Elementary, it was a school for military dependents. In 1999, Barbers Point Naval Air Station closed down and the school shifted from being military to serving the broader local population. The enrollment dropped from 570 to 264 because of this unexpected change. However, school enrollment increased over the years and Claudia leaves Barbers Point Elementary a successful and vibrant place for the education of our keiki. I wish Claudia the best of luck in her future adventures.



Senator Gabbard went to the documentary "Tyke Elephant Outlaw" on Nov. 21. Pictured from L-R: Sen. Mike and Carol Gabbard, the film's directors Stefan Moore and Susan Lambert, Lyra Johns, Sen. Will Espero, and Hawaii Senior State Director, State Affairs of The Humane Society of the United States, Inga Gibson

## More Resources for Community-Based Marine Management

One of the biggest challenges the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) faces is the lack of funding it receives from the state to carry out its responsibilities in protecting our state lands and waters. During the last several months, I've participated in site visits with DLNR staff and my colleagues at the Legislature on all the major Hawaiian Islands to see up close the important work they are doing and where we need to focus our energies. I've been working with the Nature Conservancy on a bill to increase staffing at DLNR for community-based marine management.

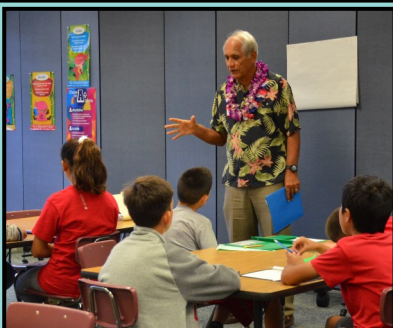
This bill would support funding for:

- ◆ 3 positions in the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources: community-based subsistence fishing area coordinator, legal fellow, and aquatic invasive species specialist
- ◆ A grant program for communities working with DLNR on community-based marine management
- ◆ 2 positions in the DLNR Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE): makai watch coordinator and legal fellow
- ◆ 12 positions in DOCARE for Community Fisheries Enforcement Units



## Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Graduations

I had the privilege of participating in both fall graduations for the Kalaeloa and Hilo campuses of the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy. The Kalaeloa graduation was at the Pearl City Cultural Center Auditorium on December 17<sup>th</sup> and the Hilo graduation happened at the Kamehameha Schools Hawai'i Campus Auditorium on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. I presented Honorary Certificates to the combined 179 graduates of this outstanding program. For those who aren't familiar, Youth Challenge provides 16 to 18 year-old "non-traditional at risk" youth a second chance to obtain their high school diploma and become productive citizens within the community. The Academy instills discipline and a sense of self-worth by using military training to significantly improve the life skills and employment potential of young people. The program's eight core components focus on the holistic development of the youth and include: academic excellence, life-coping skills, job skills, health & hygiene, responsible citizenship, community service, leadership/followership, and physical fitness. The five-month residential phase of the program is followed by a year-long mentoring relationship with specially trained members of each graduate's community. The Academy was founded in August 1994 and is administered by the Hawai'i National Guard. Each cycle, the program accepts 100 young people. Roughly 21 percent of those who enter the Academy fail to complete the course. Since its inception, the program has graduated close to 4,000 students with 80 percent of them going on to earn their high school diploma. Mahalo to Major General Arthur "Joe" Logan, the state Adjutant General and Youth Challenge Director Juan D. Williams for their dedication to this program.



**On November 24, Sen. Gabbard was invited by Mauka Lani Elementary School in Makakilo, to speak to 5th graders on their "Annual Career Day." This year, the kids actually got to choose which career they wanted to learn about.**

## Kroc Center Open House

Since 2012, the Salvation Army Kroc Center has been a focal point for the West O'ahu community by offering great recreational opportunities for young and old. The Center was made possible by a \$110 million gift from Joan Kroc. For those who've never had a chance to check out the Kroc Center, I have good news. On January 9<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting an Open House from 10am to 2pm to showcase what they have to offer. The Open House is free to everyone. Just bring your own towels and work out gear. The Kroc Center is located at 91-3257 Kualaka'i Parkway just down the road from the UH West O'ahu campus.

## Update on Ka Makana Ali'i Mall

As you know, Kapolei will soon host the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest mall on O'ahu, which will be called Ka Makani Ali'i. The project is being executed by DeBartolo Development. I participated in the groundbreaking ceremony for the mall on March 5, 2015. Ka Makana Ali'i will be a mixed-use project that will encompass more than 150 shops, restaurants, and entertainment options, plus 2 hotels and office space. The project will be located on 67-acres of Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) land and will cost \$500 million to build. DeBartolo Development has retained JLL (Jones Lang LaSalle) to manage Ka Makana Ali'i. The first phase is slated to be completed in the fall 2016 and will include about 90 businesses in 725,000 square feet of space. The second phase will include 700,000 square feet. The project will create 3,000 construction jobs and 6,500 more permanent jobs. The mall will have 2,700 parking stalls. DHHL is leasing their land to DeBartolo Development, which will have a 65-year lease, where they will pay over \$200 million in lease payments to DHHL with an additional \$400 million in incentives. The anchor tenants will be Macy's (103,000 sq. ft.) and an 8-screen Consolidated Theatres, which will boast reclining seats and food from local chefs. Other tenants include Victoria's Secret, Forever 21, H&M, Bath & Body Works, Gap, Banana Republic, California Pizza Kitchen, 24 Hour Fitness, Walgreens, Luibueno's, Plus Interiors, Nagoya Ramen, Auntie Anne's, AT&T, Town & Country Surf Designs, Reyn Spooner, Rix Island Wear, Cinnabon, Old Navy, and a 6-story Hampton Inn Suites' hotel (150 rooms).