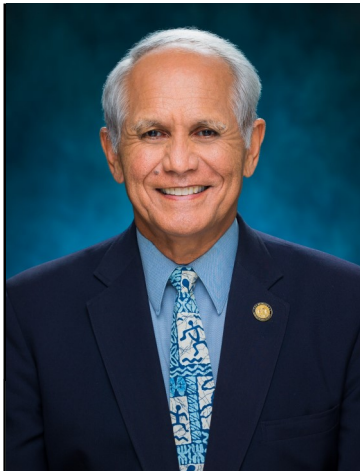


The Senate

STATE CAPITOL

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard *Legislative update...*

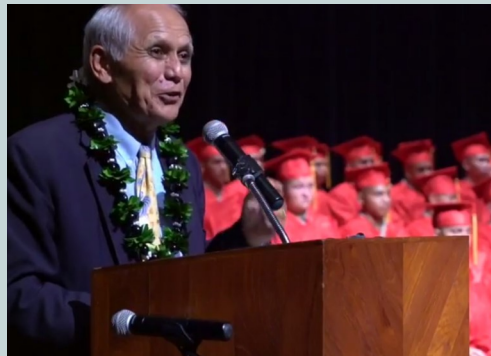


Aloha e Friends,

Happy 4th of July to you and your ohana. Enjoy this patriotic celebration and the summer because it will be gone before you know it. As always, please 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>.

YOUTH CHALLENGE ACADEMY GRADUATION

I gave the keynote address, awarded a personal scholarship, and presented each of the 97 Kalaeloa campus cadets at the National Guard Youth Challenge Academy Graduation an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate on June 22nd at the Pearl City Cultural Center Auditorium. I've been a huge supporter of YCA for many years and am always blown away to see the young lives that are forever changed by this awesome program. When the cadets enter the program, some have already been in trouble with the law, done poorly in school, or had problems with substance abuse. But, by the time they graduate from the boot-camp like 22-week residential program, they receive their GEDs and are ready for a career of their choosing and headed toward much success in life.



Navy Kalaeloa Landfill Site Work

You might have seen in the news that the Navy is moving forward with a plan to clean up the former Naval Air Station Barbers Point Sanitary Landfill Site where asbestos was burned and trash was dumped from 1942 to 1997. The closed landfill is located off Saratoga Rd. at the northwest side of the Kalaeloa Airport Runway 11. The Navy is proposing to spend \$1.2m to add cover material to the landfill, put in erosion control measures and add perimeter signs and conduct a review every 5 years. Heavy rain has caused flooding and erosion of the existing cover. The State Department of Health and Navy support that plan. Another option is for the Navy to remove and dispose of soil and debris down to 10 ft. at a cost of \$42 m. This project caught a lot of us by surprise, as we weren't notified about a public meeting on the matter which took place at Kapolei High on May 23rd. After relaying my concerns about the fact that few people were aware the project was moving forward, the Navy agreed to hold another public meeting at the Ewa Beach Public and School Library on June 29th and extend the public comment period from June 22nd to July 21st. For more information, please contact Denise Emsley of Navy Public Affairs at 471-7300 or denise.emsley@navy.mil.

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COMMITTEE CHAIR

- ◆ Agriculture & Environment

VICE CHAIR

- ◆ Water and Land

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary & Labor

DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

NEXT "LISTEN STORY"

My next "Listen Story" meeting will be Aug. 19th at 9am at the Kapolei High Teachers' Lounge, next to the cafeteria.

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UH WEST O'AHU UPDATES

Seeing UH West O'ahu come to fruition and continue to grow and blossom has been one of the highlights of my time in the State Senate. Here are some recent updates on our university that you might find interesting.

- ◆ Dr. Maenette Benham started on January 1, 2017 as UH West O'ahu Chancellor.
- ◆ UH West O'ahu is going through a master planning process, which focuses on Native Hawaiian principles.
- ◆ 350 students graduated in 2017.
- ◆ Current enrollment is 2,939 and they plan for 8,000–10,000 students in the next 10-12 years.
- ◆ Native Hawaiians are the largest ethnic group of students, representing 28.1% of the total.
- ◆ 65% of students are women.
- ◆ They have the largest distance education program in the UH system.
- ◆ Their Health Sciences and Administration Building will open in the fall 2018.
- ◆ They have 500-acres for the campus – 315 for actual campus development and 185 for a university village (housing and commercial).

UH will soon put out a request for proposals on 200-acres of mauka UH System lands above the H-1 freeway overlooking the UH West O'ahu campus for a project called the UH West O'ahu Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems. This project is being led by Dr. Albie Miles, who runs the UH West O'ahu Sustainable Food Systems program. It will be modeled after the MA'O Farms program and will help young people learning about organic agriculture, while they get their tuition paid and a stipend in return. Ultimately, this is about getting new blood into agriculture and creating leaders who are excited about making Hawai'i nei a better place to live!



On June 8, Sen. Gabbard visited James and Janell Caterina Simpliciano—Simpli Fresh; and Maui Ku'ia Estate Cacao, owned by Gunars Valkirs and managed by David McPherson (Pictured).

KAPOLEI INTERCHANGE COMPLEX PHASE 2 STILL MOVING FORWARD

You may have seen in the news that the state Department of Transportation (DOT) was evaluating whether or not to halt construction on Phase 2 of the Kapolei Interchange Complex. Phase 2 is a \$63 million project that would create a cloverleaf interchange for eastbound travelers on H-1 to exit at Wakea and those coming from Wakea to crossover the H-1 and go westbound on Farrington Hwy. Phase 2 is 40% complete with the James Campbell Co. already putting in \$5.7 million for the design and \$14 million being paid by the state to the contractor Goodfellow Bros. The contract award date was July 2015 and the expected completion date is May 2018. The federal government is paying for 80% of the cost of the project. I met with Ford Fuchigami, DOT Director, Rep. Sharon Har, and Rep. Ty Cullen on May 17th, about the Kapolei Interchange Phase 2 because DOT is assessing all its current highway projects. Rep. Har, Rep. Cullen, and I reiterated the importance of the Kapolei Interchange Phase 2 in the development of the City of Kapolei. James Campbell Co. was also very helpful in providing background information to DOT about the economic impacts of the highway project. In the end, Ford agreed with our assessment and the project will continue to move forward.

Kualaka'i Parkway Extension Status

DOT has been planning to extend Kualaka'i Parkway from Kapolei Parkway to Roosevelt Avenue for the last several years. I'd been communicating directly with Ford Fuchigami of DOT about the concerns related to potential impacts to the Hawaiian Railway Society. I received a letter from Ford at DOT dated June 7, 2017 that stated:

"This capacity project is not considered a high priority given the safety, preservation, and capacity needs of the statewide transportation system. As such, DOT is not committing any funding or project development resources to this project at this time. Programming for this will be deferred."

SITE VISIT TRIP TO LANA'I AND MAUI

One of the things I have fun doing as the Senate's Ag and Environment Chair is to get out in the field and talk to farmers and see what's going on. At the Legislature, we see hundreds of PowerPoints and position papers, but what I like to do is visit with people and hear their stories. The site visits make it real, so I can go back to my colleagues and try to convince them of the importance of the issues at hand. On June 8th and 9th, I visited farms on Maui and Lana'i. On Maui, we learned about the 50-acre Maui Ku'ia Estate Cacao farm near Lahaina that will be making its own chocolate bars by 2018. We got a tour of the Simpli Fresh agroforest that has fruit trees, vegetables, and animals. We saw the Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm, which is growing 22 varieties of lavender. We visited with Hanalei Colleado, a farmer who is growing cassava and ulu on former HC&S sugar lands. We met with Kelly King of Pacific Biodiesel to see her sunflower harvesting project on former HC&S lands. On Lana'i, we visited with two farmers, Dave Embry and Steve Lichter who grow lettuce, finger limes, and other veggies and learned from Lynn McCrory, of Pulama Lana'i (Larry Ellison's company), about their plans for a hydroponics facility that will grow romaine lettuce and tomatoes.



Sen. Gabbard at Pacific Biodiesel with Kelly King, Co-founder and Vice President.



Sen. Gabbard on Ali'i Kula Lavender Farm Maui with Koa Chang, Owner; Carol Gabbard and tour guide, Jerrett Pahukoa.



Sen. Gabbard with Maui farmer Hanalei Colleado.



Sen. Gabbard with Lynn McCrory, Senior V.P. of Gov. Affairs, Pulama Lana'i.



Aquaponics farmer, Steve Lichter, largest producer of *finger limes* in the state, which look like a finger, but taste like a lime.



Sen. Gabbard with Dave Embry who has a 2-acre farm and supplies lettuce for Lana'i's hotels.

U.S. Army MWR Hiring Fair

For all you folks that may be looking for a new job, the U.S. Army Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) will be holding two hiring fairs on the westside in July. The hiring fairs will be July 10th at Ho'okele Elementary School (511 Kunehi Street, Kapolei) and July 17th at Wai'anae Elementary School (85-220 McAuthur Street, Wai'anae) from 9am to 3pm. Please visit HiMWR.com to see what information you'll need to bring to be considered for the positions and to check out what positions are available.

PILOT HEMP PROGRAM UPDATE



Sen. Gabbard performs a song about hemp before his keynote on June 10, at the Hawaii Hemp Conference in Hilo. (Photo Credit: Hollyn Johnson/Tribune-Herald.)

While on my trip to Maui as part of Hemp History Week, I spoke at a joint Hawai'i Farmers Union United/Maui Hemp Institute for Research and Innovation dinner on June 8th. On June 10th, I gave a keynote speech at the Hawaii Hemp Conference on Hilo. There's been some very good recent news about our pilot industrial hemp program. On June 20th, the Department of Agriculture (DOA) received its registration and import permit from the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. This means the DOA will now move forward with a contract with three companies to develop Hawai'i acclimated hemp seed. That same day, the state Board of Agriculture voted to approve the Administrative Rules for the operations of the program. The rules now need to be signed by the Small Business Review Board and the Governor. Next, the DOA will focus on hiring a hemp program coordinator and is looking to begin issuing licenses to farmers to grow hemp by the end of the year.

CLIMATE CHANGE BILL SIGNING

I spoke at Governor Ige's bill signing for two climate change related bills on June 6th. We knew that President Trump was likely to pull our country out of the Paris Agreement on climate change, when he took any mention of climate change off the White House website. This is why I co-introduced SB 559 (Act 32) with Senator English and helped shepherd this important bill through the legislative process as the Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair. SB 559 will continue our commitment to addressing climate change mitigation and resiliency. At the bills signing, our Governor and county Mayors made a commitment to the Paris Agreement. I also supported HB 1578 (Act 33) related to carbon sequestration, which can be very lucrative for farmers and other landowners who can sell carbon credits that polluters can buy to offset their carbon emissions. Ultimately, the right decision for our state is to continue our leadership on sustainability efforts like the Aloha + Challenge, which includes our push to get 100% of our electricity from renewable energy sources by 2045.



HONORING EYES PLUS, INC.

I presented a surprise Honorary Certificate to Dr. Hank Makini of Eyes Plus, Inc. on May 27th at the Grand Opening of their new office at Mehana in Kapolei. Just by reading some of the testimonials that Dr. Hank Makini has received, it's clear that the Plus in the name of his practice, Eyes Plus, Inc., has significant meaning. Dr. Makini has provided a friendly family vision care service in Leeward Oahu for close to 30 years. Besides offering preventive eye examinations, laser eye correction, eyeglass and contact lens prescriptions, Eyes Plus also provides headache assessments and evaluations for learning and behavioral difficulties, as well as a home vision training program for elementary readers. Project S.A.V.E. is a public awareness project founded by Dr. Makini that stands for Supporting Academic and Visual Excellence. Its purpose is to help determine if children have been or could be misdiagnosed with ADHD, when they instead have a correctable visual condition. Eyes Plus, Inc. is truly a family business, with Dr. Makini's wife, Sharon, and daughters Ambrosia, Ariana, and Alexis all working together to provide excellent service. Congratulations to Dr. Makini and his staff for a beautiful new location. We hope that they'll have many more years of educating, preserving eyesight, and serving our children and communities with aloha.