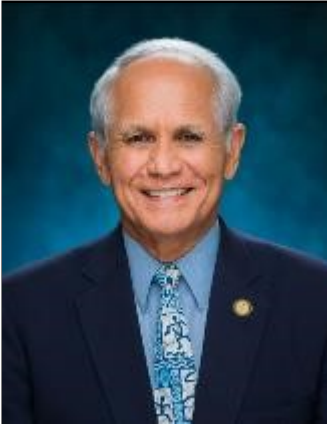




The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



Aloha e Friends,

The last day of the 2017 legislative session, Sine Die, is May 4th. As usual, it's been a busy session at the State Capitol. A big challenge I face in introducing legislation and trying to get it through the Legislature is finding solutions that work for all the different government agencies, environmental groups, private businesses, and the public who have an interest in the topic. My job is to gather information, listen carefully to all sides of an issue, and make a fair and well-reasoned decision with the goal of creating good public policy. This session, as the Senate's Agriculture and Environment Chair, I was particularly focused on win-win, sustainable solutions that support our goals of increased local food production and protecting our endangered species, while continuing to look for ways to decrease the threat of invasive species. Be sure to keep an eye out for my June newsletter next month, where I'll provide a complete Legislative Wrap-up.

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>.

MY LEGISLATION IN 2017

This session, three of the bills and one resolution that I authored, passed through the legislative process. Here's a brief summary of each:

Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (SB 808)

This bill would appropriate \$450,000 in both Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 to the Hawai'i Association of Conservation Districts (HACD) to improve farm practices, reduce erosion, improve ocean and drinking water quality, fight invasive species, and conserve water. HACD is made up of 16 soil and conservation districts representing every community on all major islands of our state.

Cannabis (SB 786)

This bill would change all references to "medical marijuana" and "medical use of marijuana" to "medical cannabis" in state law and Administrative Rules. The term marijuana has no scientific basis and carries prejudicial implications rooted in racial stereotypes from the early 20th century.



Sen. Gabbard led his first conference committee meeting of the 2017 session as chair of the Agriculture and Environment committee on April 21.

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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 a "Legislative Session Wrap-up" held this Saturday, May 6th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School cafeteria, next to the teachers' lounge.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- AEN Committee Update .. 1-2
- District 20 Construction Funding 2
- Eating House 1849 Grand Opening 3
- Clean Energy Day 3
- Art at the Capitol..... 4
- Neighborhood Board Elections 4
- The Pueo Project 4



AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (AEN) UPDATE



Sen. Gabbard, along with several of his colleagues and fellow "Hempsters" proudly wore their hemp shirts in celebration of "Aloha Hemp Day" on April 21. Pictured left to right: Sen. Les Ihara, Sen. Russell Ruderman, Sen. Gabbard, Sen. Laura Thielen, Sen. Karl Rhoads, Sen. Gil Riviere, Sen. Kaiiali'i Kahele.

Industrial Hemp (SB 773)

This bill would improve the existing industrial hemp pilot program law by allowing farmers to apply for hemp licenses year round instead of just from January to April, requiring the counties to recognize the cultivation of industrial hemp, limiting the cultivation of hemp to licensees on agricultural lands, and repealing the requirement of having to get a movement permit to transport hemp plants or material.

Bona Fide Agricultural Producer Definition (SCR 77)

This resolution requests

the Department of Agriculture to establish a temporary task force to create a single definition of "bona fide agricultural producer" and to submit a report of its findings to the Legislature before the 2019 session. The definition of bona fide agricultural producer is needed to help address the proliferation of gentleman farms on our precious agricultural lands.



On April 20, Sen. Gabbard introduced Vincent Mina during session on the occasion of his confirmation to the Board of Agriculture. Vincent is President and founding member of Hawai'i Farmers Union United, representing farmers in Hawai'i. He's also a farmer himself, managing Kahanu 'Aina Greens on Maui. The Hawai'i State Senate unanimously confirmed Vincent's nomination to the Board of Agriculture.

Construction Funding for Senate District 20

I was pleased that we were able to secure \$109.3m in the state biennium budget for Fiscal Years 2017-2019 for schools, the Kalaeloa Airport, and infrastructure in Senate District 20. Here's a quick rundown of that funding:

- **East Kapolei Middle School**—Construction of a New School - \$77m (projected school opening is 2019-2020 school year; located on parcel of land behind Kroc Center)
- **Kalaeloa Airport**
 - ◆ Construction of T-Hangars—\$8m
 - ◆ Design and Construction of Runway Lighting—\$3.3m
 - ◆ Construction of Utility System Improvements—\$10m
- **Kalaeloa Enterprise Avenue Energy Corridor Design and Construction to Midway Road**—\$3m (will complete project to Kalaeloa Airport; construction to start this summer)
- **National Kidney Foundation Grant-in-Aid for Kapolei facility** —\$1 million
- **O'ahu Bikeways**—Land Acquisition for a Multi-Use Path from Waipio Point Access Road to Lualualei Naval Road - \$2m
- **UH West O'ahu**
 - ◆ Renovation of Maintenance Building—\$2.5m
 - ◆ Repair and Renovation of Library—\$50,000
- **Transit-Oriented Development Master Plan of State**—Owned Parcels Near Proposed Rail Stations in Kapolei area - \$1 m
- **Youth Challenge Academy**—Design and Construction for Replacement of Balcony and Stairway Guardrails - \$800,000
- **Waipahu Intermediate School**—Plans and Design for Additional Multi-Purpose Play Courts - \$600,000

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Eating House 1849

On April 26, I had the pleasure of surprising award-winning Chef Roy Yamaguchi with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Legislature in honor of the Grand Opening of [Eating House 1849 Kapolei](#) in Kapolei Commons. This is his third location in Hawai'i and I was thrilled to see that Kapolei was picked as its location. Eating House 1849 partnered with Make-A-Wish Hawai'i for this special event and featured dishes from all three of the Eating House Executive Chefs in addition to live entertainment, raffle style giveaways, and more.

The original *Eating House*, so the story goes, opened back in the mid-1800s when Peter Fernandez opened one of the first restaurants in Hawai'i using what was seasonally available from local farmers, ranchers, foragers and fishermen. Award-winning Chef Roy Yamaguchi pays homage to Hawai'i's vibrant culinary heritage and diverse communities by combining these two worlds: the simple ambiance and flavors of an old plantation town with the elaborate modernity of haute cuisine, including an emphasis on Hawai'i's abundance of fresh, local produce and ingredients. Chef Roy's Eating House 1849 also draws inspiration from his grandfather, who owned a tavern and restaurant in Wailuku, Maui during the 1940s.



Sen. Gabbard surprised award-winning Chef Roy Yamaguchi with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Legislature on April 26 to celebrate the Grand Opening of [Eating House 1849 Kapolei](#) in Kapolei Commons.

Clean Energy Day

On April 20, I spoke to over 600 students gathered at the State Capitol for Clean Energy Day. Their energy was electric! (pun intended) I thanked the students for their interest and commitment to clean energy transportation and their enthusiasm in helping reach the state's goal of 100% renewable energy by 2045. I also updated the students on the state's progress toward that goal: 26% renewable energy this year, up from 9% renewable energy in 2009. The event was hosted by Blue Planet Foundation and featured activities and displays on clean and renewable energy technologies. One of the highlights of the event: a display and test drive of several different electric vehicles. I've been driving an electric vehicle – a Nissan Leaf – since 2011, but couldn't resist checking out the newest line of vehicles.



Sen. Gabbard spoke to hundreds of students from [Island Pacific Academy](#) at the State Capitol for Blue Planet Foundation's Clean Energy Day on April 20.



Sen. Gabbard checked out some electric vehicles on display for Blue Planet Foundation's Clean Energy Day on April 20. Pictured with the Senator is Kurt Speas of Tony Nissan.

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Art at the Capitol

On April 7, I opened my office to the public for the 9th annual "Art at the Capitol." During this special event, the public is invited to view the nearly 500 pieces of artwork displayed not just in the open areas of the State Capitol, but in the offices of participating legislators. Art at the Capitol has grown to be a much-anticipated spring tradition. The art in each office is selected personally by the legislators from the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts "Art in Public Places" collection. Legislators choose the pieces from books illustrating the works of art, which are then installed by the HSFC. HSFC was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1965 to promote, perpetuate, preserve and encourage culture and the arts, history and the humanities as central to the quality of life of the people of Hawai'i. HSFC funding is provided by the State of Hawai'i and the National Endowment for the Arts. Mahalo to all the artists and art lovers who came out to this event!



Many art lovers came to visit with Sen. Gabbard in his office during the 9th Annual "Art at the Capitol" on April 7. Pictured with the Senator: Ken Farm, Kalihi-Palama Neighborhood Board Member; and Dylan Armstrong, Transportation Improvement Program Mgr. and Planning Analyst; and Vice-Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, O'ahu County Committee.

2017 Neighborhood Board Elections

The Honolulu Neighborhood Commission Office (NCO) mailed passcodes to voters who are eligible to cast their ballots online for contested seats in the 2017 election for O'ahu's neighborhood boards. Approximately 260,000 voters received unique passcodes to cast ballots online at www2.honolulu.gov/nbe. The voting deadline is Friday, May 19. There are also computers available at these locations:

- Kapolei Hale conference room C, 1000 Ulu'ohi'a Street
- Kapālama Hale, Suite 160, 925 Dillingham Boulevard
- The KEY project in Kahalu'u at 47-200 Waihe'e Road
- Any public library on O'ahu within the Hawai'i State Public Library System

To save paper and keep costs down, you're encouraged to vote online if you can. You can also request a ballot by mail by calling the Ballot Request Hotline at 768-3763, by May 15, 4:30 p.m. Online voting closes at 11:59 p.m. May 19, 2017. Election results will be announced June 1, 2017. Newly elected board members will assume office on July 1. You can view candidate profiles and photos here: <https://www2.honolulu.gov/nbe/candidateprofiles.php>.

The Pueo Project

On April 21, we received an announcement from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) on the launching of their new project website, www.pueoproject.com. The *Pueo Project* is a collaboration with UH Manoa, with support from the DLNR and State of Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The project investigates population



Photo Credit: Stefan Hage

size, distribution, and habitat use of the Hawaiian Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) or *Pueo* on the island of O'ahu, Hawai'i. The purpose of the website is to provide information about the project and the owl species inhabiting the Hawaiian archipelago. DLNR is also looking for help from citizen scientists. You can help by reporting sightings through their website, by participating in organized surveys, and by taking photos to document behaviors, breeding phenology, prey items and more. If you're interested in becoming a citizen scientist, please review the Volunteer Information here: <https://www.pueoproject.com/citizen-science>. For questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, contact the Pueo Project Team at DLNR here: <https://www.pueoproject.com/contact>.