

The Senate  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## *Legislative update...*

January 2018  
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### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Agriculture &  
Environment

### VICE CHAIR

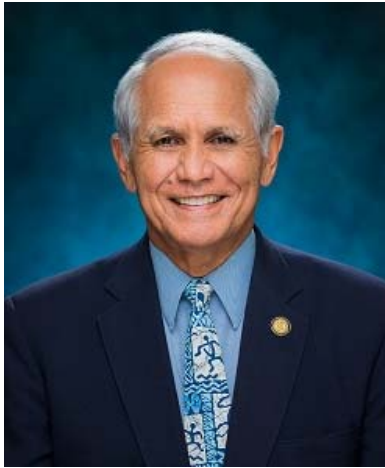
Water and Land

### MEMBER

Judiciary

### SENATE DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and  
portions of Ewa,  
Kalaeloa and Waipahu



Aloha e Friends,

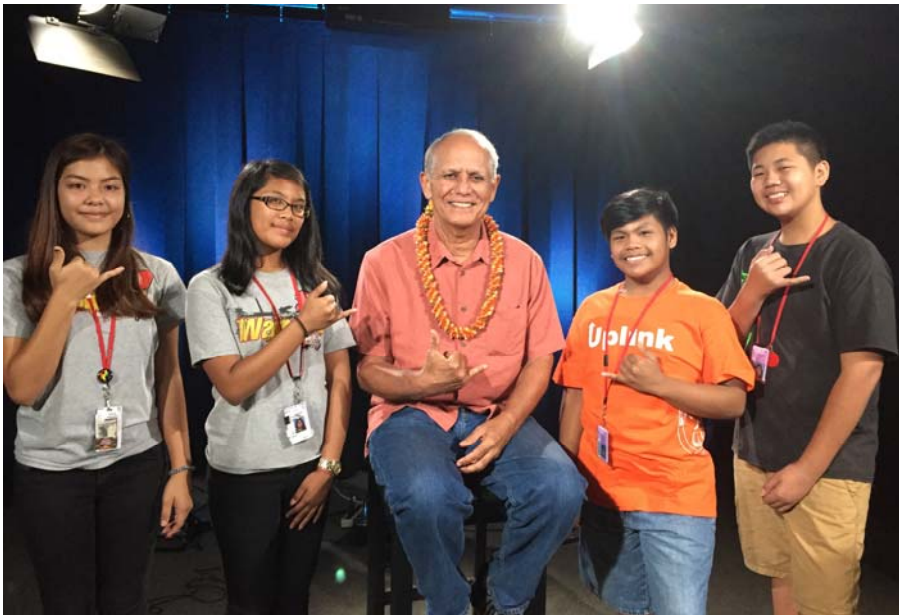
Happy New Year! Opening Day of the 2018 Legislative Session is on January 17th and I invite you to join me at noon in my office, Room 201 at the State Capitol, for refreshments. As always, please feel free to contact me at 586-6830 or email [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. Also, follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](http://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

## STAFFING SET FOR 2018 SESSION

As the 2018 Legislative Session begins on January 17th my staff and I will be ready to serve Senate District #20 and the state as a whole. Meg Turner will be my Legislative Office Manager. Rock Riggs, who previously served in that position, will be switching over to Committee Clerk to assist me with the Agriculture and Environment Committee, which I continue to chair. Adriene Unpingco will be Assistant Committee Clerk and Patty Haller will be my scheduler and assist Meg with running the office.

## Listen Story

My first Listen Story meeting of 2018 will be held January 27th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at Ewa Mahiko District Park Meeting Room (91-1161 Renton Rd., Ewa Beach)



Senator Gabbard was interviewed by Waipahu Intermediate School students about "Children and Youth Day" for a school project documentary, on Nov. 16. Their teacher, Ian Rush, said the students were in charge of the entire project, from coming up with the questions to the filming. Pictured with Sen. Gabbard are: Clarisa Wegesend, Angelynn Padaca, Jerryd Bumanglag, and Chase Ignacio.

## Get Involved in the 2018 Legislative Session

We'll kick off the Legislative Session on January 17<sup>th</sup>. I hope you'll take the time to weigh in with testimony on legislation that you think is important to you and your family and to the future of our state. The first step is to visit the State Capitol website--[capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov), where you can get signed up to "submit testimony", "hearing notification" and "measure tracking."



## Industrial Hemp Program Update

As Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, I've been working the last several years to get an industrial hemp program going in our state. After three laws passed and a lot of blood, sweat, and tears, I'm happy to announce that the Department of Agriculture is very close to issuing licenses to farmers to grow hemp under a pilot research program across our state. Last month, the DOA hired Shelley Choy as the hemp program coordinator. Currently, DOA has three contractors, including the University of Hawai'i, that are growing a Chinese variety of

hemp seed that will create a Hawai'i acclimated seed that our farmers will be using. The target date for those hemp licenses to start being issued is April 2018. I can't wait to see the day when we have a cottage hemp industry here that takes advantage of our Hawai'i branding to make our state the place to get the best quality hemp shampoos, soaps, oils, CBD, and other cool products!



## LAUNCH OF 2018 NISSAN LEAF



Sen. Gabbard with Stan Masamitsu, President of Tony Group in Waipahu.

I was the Energy and Environment Committee (ENE) Chairman from 2009 to 2015. During that time, I committed myself to doing all I could to help us kick our state's addiction to dirty, fossil fuels. In 2015, we were able to enact the nation's first law to commit our state to

having 100% of our electricity come from renewable sources by 2045. On December 10th, I spoke at the 2018 Nissan Leaf Unveiling at Tony Nissan in Waipio. I was one of the first owners of a Nissan Leaf in our state in April 2011. My car narrowly escaped the devastation of the tsunami that hit Japan in March of that year. Now, I have almost 80,000 miles on my Leaf. Electric vehicles (EVs) in Hawai'i continue to make progress as we're up to over 6,600 EVs on the road. And the state Energy Office tells me that we're still in the top 3 states in per capita EV ownership. While I'm no longer Chair of the ENE Committee, I still support state policies that help us move toward getting off fossil fuels. This upcoming session I plan to introduce a bill to authorize the use of the public benefits fee revenues for the installation and upgrade of electric power infrastructure to facilitate the use of EVs by increasing the number of available charging stations, including home and work-based charging stations. A second bill would clarify that EVs can't park at airport parking lots for over 24 hours at a time. I'm hopeful we'll get some traction this time around.



## AQUAPONICS GARDEN

Before I gave my pep talk to the graduating class at the National Guard Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy in Kalaeloa December 13th, one of their teachers, Edmundo Gascon, invited me to tour their aquaponics garden. I was amazed at the work these cadets are doing. Mahalo to Mr. Gascon for introducing them to this. (Pictured L-R: Cadet Josiah Borges, Cadet Kaleo Silva, Cadet Timmy Tuailili, Sen. Gabbard, Mr. Edmundo Gascon, Cadet Conrad Paulo, Cadet Blossom Kamakea.)



## Community-Based Solar to Launch in 2018

I was stoked to get the news that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) had issued an order on December 22nd, directing our electric utilities to establish a community-based renewables program. This program was initiated by a bill I au-

thored, SB 1050 which became Act 100 in 2015. At that time, we realized that a glaring problem is that the 44% of our residents who are renters and those living in high rises were being locked out of solar as an option. The basic concept is that with this program people will be able to hui up, find a piece of land, and purchase or lease however many solar PV panels they want and then get a credit on their electricity bill for the energy they produce. The plan is to have

the community-based renewables program up and running by 2018. It's very exciting to see this program come to fruition and I commend the PUC, HECO, and groups like Blue Planet Foundation for staying the course and making this happen. Everyone should have the opportunity to benefit from renewable energy as we head toward our 100% renewable energy goal; and with community-based renewables now they will.



## Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Funding Release and Graduation

I was pleased to receive a letter from Governor Ige on December 6th letting me know that he had released \$800,000 in funding to replace the railings of the connecting walkways and stairwells at the Youth Challenge Academy in Kalaeloa. This is money well spent. I've been a big supporter of this incredible program since I was elected to the State Senate. If you're not familiar, the Youth Challenge Academy 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. It has campuses in Kalaeloa and in Hilo. Each cycle, the program accepts

roughly 100 young people. Since its inception, the program has graduated over 5,100 students with 80% of them going on to earn their high school diploma. Before each graduation of the cadets, I give a pep talk to them. This year I spoke to them on December 13th and also got to check out their new aquaponics program, which allows cadets to learn about agriculture. I also attended the graduation of 105 cadets from their Kalaeloa campus at the Pearl City Cultural Center Auditorium on December 14th and presented each of them an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate.

## SLEEP NUMBER GRAND OPENING

I presented an Honorary Certificate at the Grand Opening of Sleep Number at the Kapolei Commons Shopping Center on December 8th. This is Sleep Number's first store in Hawai'i and the company now has stores in all 50 states. The new 3,600 square foot store features the innovative Sleep Number award-winning design and employs a staff of four sleep experts and two home-delivery technicians. Customers will be guided by a sleep professional and receive an individualized sleep experience to help them understand their needs and find product solutions to achieve their best sleep. As part of Sleep Number's commitment to improving the well-being of youth through better sleep, a donation of bedding will be made to the Ma'ili Land Transitional Housing Program, which provides temporary housing for homeless families. The Ma'ili Land Program focuses on families with children under the age of 19 and helps them obtain and retain long-term housing.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Natalie Burroughs, Store Manager; and Larry Viands, District Manager, of Sleep Number in Kapolei on Dec. 8.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Tim Cantwell, Cloudbreak Communities, Cantwell-Anderson, Inc. CEO, on Dec. 8.

## Cloudbreak Communities Hale Uhiwai Nalu II Grand Opening

I spoke at the Grand Opening of the Cloudbreak Communities' Hale Uhiwai Nalu, 46 unit building, in Kalaeloa on December 8th. Cloudbreak Communities, owned and operated by Cantwell Anderson, is the brand name for a family of mission-driven, limited liability companies each engaged in the development of supportive housing for homeless, formerly homeless, and at-risk veterans. Hale Uhiwai Nalu has been rolled out in several phases. The various parts have been successful in their mission to provide shelter and services, including, 80

studio apartments renovated and re-opened in 2009, a 98-bed transitional facility leased to U.S. Veterans Initiative, and long-term supportive housing with 46 units and 54 beds along with a 9,000 square foot ground floor support service space. The newest phase opening offers residents more than twenty on-site staff members, dedicated peer specialists, 24-hour staff, and transportation services. Cloudbreak Communities has successfully completed the development of nearly 3,000 housing units in 5 states. Working with supportive service providers, Cloudbreak delivers much needed care to our veteran residents.