

The Senate  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## *Legislative update...*

February 2018  
Vol. 11 Issue 2

### COMMITTEE CHAIR

Agriculture &  
Environment

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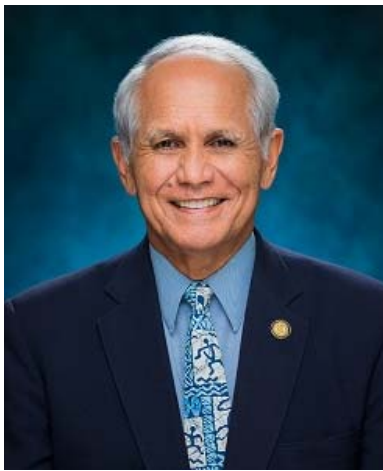
Water and Land

### MEMBER

Judiciary

### SENATE DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and  
portions of Ewa,  
Kalaeloa and Waipahu



Aloha e friends,

Our 2018 legislative session is in full swing! Thanks to those of you who stopped by my office on January 17<sup>th</sup>, Opening Day, to meet and talk story. Judging by the lack of leftovers from my wife's homemade toffee, we hosted over 200 people! Be sure to check out my [Facebook](#) and [Flickr](#) albums to see pictures from Opening Day, and feel free to email me if you'd like a copy of the original photo. As always, 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, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](http://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

## 2018 SESSION STAFF UPDATE

If you haven't had the pleasure of meeting my awesome staff, stop by sometime to say hello. Meg Turner is my Office Manager during session, while Rock Riggs, who normally serves in that position, moves over to Committee Clerk, with Adriene Unpingco of Kapolei assisting. Patty Haller of Makakilo is my scheduler, and last, but certainly not least, Sydney Williams is our amazing intern from UH Manoa. She and Patty assist Meg with running the office.



Pictured L-R: Adriene Unpingco, Assistant Committee Clerk; Patty Haller, Legislative Assistant; Senator Gabbard; Meg Turner, Office Mgr.; and Sydney Williams, UH-Manoa Intern.

## Listen Story

My next Listen Story meeting will be held February 24th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge.

## LEGISLATIVE NEWS

### Get Involved!

I encourage each of you to participate in the political process. Some of you submitted ideas that are now bills, which are being heard by various committees. You can track bills, get signed up to receive hearing notices, and submit testimony at the Capitol website: [www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov). You'll find key dates in the 2018 Legislative Timetable on page 3.



# KEY LEGISLATION

## Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems (SB 2575)

Senate Bill 2575 appropriates funds for UH West 'Oahu to expand its existing programs and develop new ways to increase food security and self-sufficiency in the State. It establishes scholarships for interested students to enroll in the community food systems program at UHWO and creates job and on-site training opportunities for their student run organic garden. It also creates a Hawaiian Center for Sustainable Community Food Systems, a two hundred-acre education, training, outreach, food processing, and applied research center (preceded by a study that determines the feasibility and benefits of such a center). The center would

also implement research projects, host conferences and public education events; and conduct outreach and recruitment.

You may have heard me talk about my passion for getting young people excited about farming—to see it as an inspiring profession, no less noble than being a doctor or lawyer. With the average age of farmers in Hawai'i at 61, this bill is a positive step in the right direction. Plus, we spend over 3 billion dollars importing about 90% of our food. That's just plain stupid. SB 2575 addresses both those issues, so I'm really stoked about it.



**Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Josh Green, and Sen. Breene Harimoto in the Senate Chambers at the Governor's State of the State on Jan. 22.**



**On Jan. 16, Sen. Gabbard toured Re-Use Hawai'i (Pictured with Daniel Murren, Reuse CFO; Carolyn Murren, Reuse Redistribution Center Mgr.)**

## Farm to School Grant Program (SB 2928)

Farm to School Programs seek to improve children's daily nutrition by making healthy changes to school lunches and snack programs along with incorporating nutrition and exercise into their everyday lives. Hawai'i doesn't have an official Farm to School Program, but school gardens are growing across the state, with a goal to connect children to the 'āina, teach self-reliance, ecosystem health, and stewardship.

This bill would establish a three-year Farm to School Grant Program in the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and provide support to local entities to develop community-level farm to school programs. The DOA would collaborate with the Department of Education, Department of Health, public charter schools, and farm to school stakeholders to provide grants to public schools, charter schools, public funded early care and education centers, non-profits, soil and water conservation districts, farmers, ranchers, and other food vendors registered with the DOA's farm to school program. It was encouraging to hear the Governor include Farm to School in his State of the State Speech. It's awesome that Mililani High has been selected as the next school in the 'Aina Pono Farm to School program.



**On Nov. 9, Sen. Gabbard went on a site visit to Ka'ōhāo School: A Public Charter School in Lanikai, led by Mindy Jaffee, Ka'ōhāo Resource Recovery Specialist. Ka'ōhāo is one of three schools in the Windward Zero Waste School Hui.**



## Pueo Study (SB 2078)

During the 2017 Legislative Session, as the Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Environment committee, I joined with Senators Rhoads and Kahele in holding a committee hearing on SR 6, a resolution urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct an extensive statewide Pueo habitat inventory. The resolution passed the Senate and initiated a Pueo study by DLNR. An interim report was released by DLNR on their findings in October 2017 and a final report will be issued in June 2018. These reports will provide baseline information to develop a more management-based study to help guide future decisions. This session I've introduced Senate Bill 2078, which would appropriate \$330,063 in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 to DLNR to conduct Pueo breeding and foraging studies, in collaboration with UH College of Tropical Ag and Human Resources, over a two-year period.

We need this research to determine where Pueo are nesting, what types of habitats they are using, and their overall distribution and range. The information gained will be crucial to understanding the Pueo and will help DLNR determine best-management practices regarding their recovery. Since receiving requests to introduce legislation which would designate 150-acres of UHWO campus lands for a habitat conservation preserve, we've communicated with UHWO, DLNR, and members of the community. Based on the feedback, I decided not to introduce that legislation in 2018 for the following reasons:

- ◆ There have been no meetings between UHWO and advocates on the proposed habitat preservation plan.
- ◆ UHWO should be consulted in a meaningful way on something which will have such a lasting impact on their future growth and operations. Keep in mind, the first appropriation from the Legislature for UHWO was in 1966. It took 46 years to get this campus open, and it's now the pride of West O'ahu and beyond. Any



On Jan. 16, Sen. Gabbard chatted with these young keiki first graders from Makakilo Elementary School in front of his office.

proposed changes should have input from as many stakeholders as possible.

- ◆ The lands surrounding the UHWO campus, including the 150-acres in question, are planned for a University District, which will help provide a revenue stream for future university operations.
- ◆ More research is needed on the Pueo to assist DLNR in making future management decisions, so that potential harm is not caused to the species.
- ◆ There have been no town-hall meetings allowing the general public to weigh in on the proposed 150-acre Pueo Preserve.

Just so you know, HB 2629 was introduced in the House by Representative Sam Kong by request, which would take away 150 acres of UHWO land for an habitat conservation preserve for the Pueo and other endangered species.

## 2018 Legislative Timetable

### January

24<sup>th</sup> Bill Intro Cutoff

### February

8<sup>th</sup> Triple Referral Filing (Bills)

16<sup>th</sup> First Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in originating chamber

19<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Presidents' Day

22<sup>nd</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>: Mandatory 5-Day Recess

### March

2<sup>nd</sup> First Decking: Last day to file non-budget bills for Third Reading in originating chamber

8<sup>th</sup> First Crossover (Bills)

9<sup>th</sup> Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions

12<sup>th</sup> Budget Decking

14<sup>th</sup> Budget Crossover

15<sup>th</sup> Second Triple Referral Filing (Bills)

23<sup>rd</sup> Second Lateral (Bills): Bills must be moved to final committee in non-originating chamber

26<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Kuhio Day

28<sup>th</sup> First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions

30<sup>th</sup> Holiday: Good Friday

### April

5<sup>th</sup> First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions

6<sup>th</sup> Second Decking (Bills): Last day to file bills for Third Reading in non-originating body

12<sup>th</sup> Second Crossover (Bills) & Last day to disagree

16<sup>th</sup> Second Lateral for Senate Concurrent Resolutions

20<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendments: Deadline for final form

23<sup>rd</sup> Second Crossover Concurrent Resolutions

26<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Non-Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

27<sup>th</sup> Last day to file Fiscal Bills to deck for Final Reading

### May

3<sup>rd</sup> Adjournment *sine die* (Session pau!)

# DISTRICT NEWS

## Army Aviation Support Facility's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



On January 11, nearly three years after its groundbreaking, it was exciting to present an Honorary Certificate to the [Hawai'i Army National Guard](#) during the AASF's Ribbon Cutting Ceremony in Kalaeloa. Hawai'i holds its defense capabilities and emergency response programs in high regard, especially in light of recent events. This is the third AASF that the HIARNG utilizes. The other two are located at Wheeler Army Air Field and in Hilo, at Lyman Field. The groundbreaking was in 2015 and the total cost of the new AASF included \$33.4 million in federal and \$4.51 million in state general obligation bond funds. A special congratulations goes out to the Hawai'i Army National Guard for their diligent hard work. Mahalo nui loa for helping us to sleep better at night knowing our defense readiness is equipped for the challenges of the 21st century.

On Jan. 11, Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to the Hawai'i Army National Guard to celebrate the opening of AASF. (Pictured L-R: Col. Moses Kaoiwi Jr., Chief of the Joint Staff, Hawai'i National Guard; Col. Roger Pukahi, St. Army Aviation Officer.)



On Jan. 20, Sen. Gabbard participated in a celebration of Kapolei Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Hawai'i Realty Office Blessing and presented them with an Honorary Certificate from the state Senate. (Pictured L-R: Senator Gabbard; Kehaulani Breault, Broker in Charge; Tracy Bradley, co-President; Earl Lee, co-President); and Kahu Cordell Kekoa).

### Bumpy Roads Be Gone!

Well folks, it sounds like it's actually happening this time. I'm told that the city's repaving will finally begin on Tuesday, February 6th for Kamokila Boulevard and Farrington Highway from Na'u Place (by Zippy's) to approximately 360 feet east of Kapouka Place. We've had some false starts in the past...so, keep your fingers crossed!



On Jan. 30, the Hawai'i State Legislature honored Lt. Governor Shan Tsutsui for his 15 years of public service.

### Upcoming Community Events!

February 2-26, 7am-7pm

[Blood Bank of Hawai'i-West O'ahu](#)

February 17, 7am-1:30pm

[Villages of Kapolei Swap Meet](#)

March 3, 1-2pm

[Blue Zones Cooking Demo, Kapolei Public Library](#)

April 14, 9am-2pm [Third Annual Spring Fair](#)