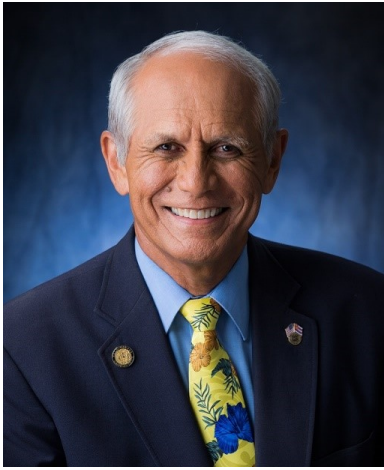


The Senate  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

# Senator Mike Gabbard

## Legislative update...



*Aloha e Friends,*

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. As usual, the session has been whizzing by with close to 2,300 bills being introduced (1,107 by the Senate and 1,153 by the House). Hundreds of bills were passed out of their respective committees and will be voted on by the entire Senate for Third Reading on **March 6**. *First Crossover* is just around the corner! On March 8, the bills that pass Third Reading will then be heard by their respective committees on the House side, while House bills that pass Third Reading are heard by the Senate.

I encourage you to visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) to track the bills you're interested in and weigh-in when you can, either by submitting written testimony, or by showing up in person to testify. As always, please feel free to contact me at (808)586-6830 or [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).

*Mike*

## KEY LEGISLATION

### School Safety (SB2576)

I'm glad to see the bill I introduced on school safety getting some media coverage. You may have seen the story on [KHON2 News on February 15th](#) and in the [Honolulu Civil Beat on February 22nd](#). Too bad it's taken the recent shooting in Florida to draw so much attention to this issue. I drafted [SB2576](#) over the summer when I was contacted by a concerned



Sen. Gabbard was interviewed Feb. 15 by Elyssa Arevalo of KHON2 news about Senate Bill 2576, related to School Safety.

James Campbell High School teacher, Christine Russo. A key component of this bill is that it will require all classrooms to be able to lock down with an interior lock in case of emergency. It will also mandate that intercom systems in schools be independent of the school's phone system and be audible anywhere on campus grounds. An issue that has come up in conversation with the Office of School Facilities and Support Services is that it's estimated to cost \$700 per door to purchase and install locks previously approved by the Honolulu Fire Department. I'm facilitating a meeting with HFD and DOE to talk story about possibly bringing the price down.

March 2018  
Vol. 11 Issue 3

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIR**

**Agriculture &**

**VICE CHAIR**  
**Water and Land**  
**MEMBER**  
**Judiciary**

### **SENATE DISTRICT 20**

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

## Listen Story

My next Listen Story meeting will be held May 5th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge.

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS

#### Hemp, Hemp Hooray!

As the Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair, I've been working the last several years to get an industrial hemp program going in our state. I'm happy to announce that the target date for hemp licenses to start being issued is April 2018.



## 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. 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. Hawai'i doesn't have an official Farm to School Program yet, but school gardens are growing across the state, with a goal to connect children to the 'āina, teach self-reliance, ecosystem health, and stewardship. It was encouraging to hear the Governor include Farm to School in his State of the State Speech, and how awesome is it that Mililani High was selected as the next school in the 'Aina Pono Farm to School program!

## Pueo Research (SB 2078)

The pueo (*Asio flammeus sandwichensis*) is a subspecies of the short-eared owl that is endemic to Hawai'i, and is considered an endangered species on O'ahu but not federally recognized as an endangered species. I worked with DLNR and UH on a bill to follow up on the current pueo study. This bill would appropriate funding for the Department of Land and Natural Resources in collaboration with the UH Manoa's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to conduct a 2-year breeding ecology study and 2-year foraging ecology study on the pueo on O'ahu. An interim report from DLNR is scheduled to be completed in June of 2018. The legislature is asking for \$330,063 to fund staffing (two graduate students and two undergraduate students), equipment, and dissemination of research.

## Youth Challenge Academy Tour



**Sen. Gabbard spoke to Youth Challenge Academy cadets Class 48, on Feb. 13. He answered the cadets' questions about the legislature and offered words of encouragement, reminding the cadets that their family, friends, and Academy mentors are all there to support them.**

Each month I speak with a group of Youth Challenge Academy cadets from Class 48, during their tour of the Capitol. The military has a special place in my life – especially YCA in Kalaeloa. I live just down the street, and I have the distinct pleasure of hearing their bugle blasting at reveille every morning! The mission of the National Guard Youth Challenge Program is to intervene in and reclaim the lives of 16-18 year old high school dropouts, producing program graduates with the values, life skills, education, and self-discipline necessary to succeed as productive citizens. In just 5 ½

months, these at-risk teens get a second chance to obtain their diploma while learning important life skills. After graduation, many of the cadets continue their education while others choose to join the military or enter the workforce. Read through some of the comments left by cadets on the [Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy Oahu Facebook page](#). Their stories tell it all. Hawai'i's YCA program has been recognized as one of the nation's most effective for at-risk teens, and its value never ceases to amaze me. The YCA has been changing the lives of young men and women since 1998, leaving a positive mark on the Hawaiian community that will last for years to come. Keep up the great work cadets, and see you at graduation in June.



## Ag Day at the Capitol

On February 15th I attended the 11th annual Ag Day at the Capitol. There were dozens of agriculture, environment and eco-friendly groups/organizations with tables at the event, handing out info, hosting interactive activities, serving food, and giving souvenirs to guests. It was great to see so many people of all ages in our community getting excited about agriculture and raising awareness about some of the environmental issues we're facing. Special thanks to the all the Chairs and Vice Chairs, Hawai'i Farm Bureau and Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for hosting the event.



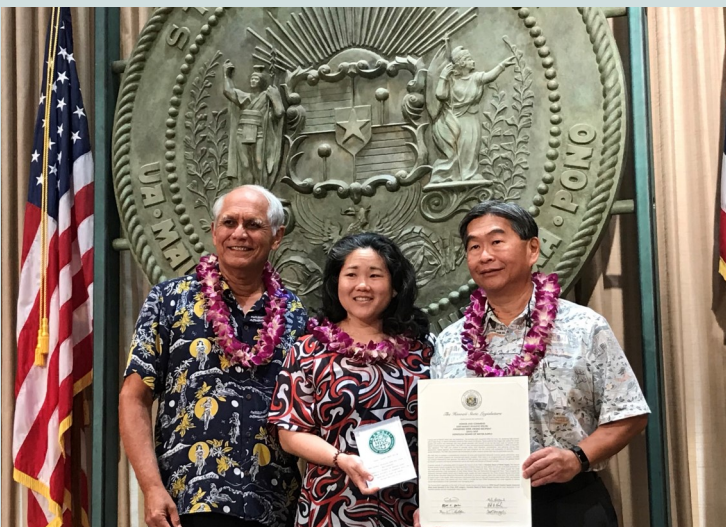
Sen. Gabbard attended the 11th Annual "Ag Day at the Capitol" on Feb. 15. (Pictured here with Kaua'i Nursery and Landscaping L-R: Christy Martin and Jane McHan.)

## Billion Trees of Aloha

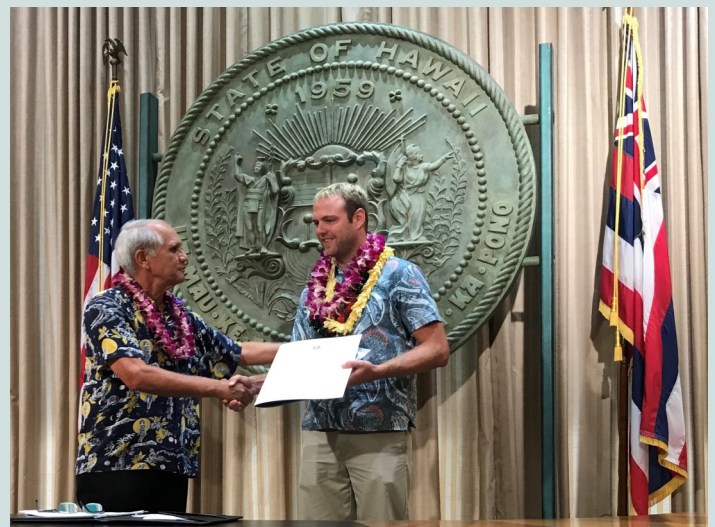
Former State Senator Susie Chun Oakland, with The Billion Trees of Aloha, has set a plan into motion to reverse the effects of our industrialized world. This organization is spreading awareness on how preserving and planting more trees can have a super positive effect on the environment and our global ecosystem. Their plan asks EVERY PERSON ON EARTH to each plant one tree before April 22, 2018. Follow the link for more information on how you can help plant one of a billion trees this Spring, and spread the word! <https://ecoopps.com>.

## Hawai'i Invasive Species Council Awards

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) aims to implement statewide invasive species prevention, early detection and control programs for terrestrial and aquatic invaders. The efforts of HISC partners are crucial in controlling invasive, the greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people. But they aren't doing it alone! I was honored recently to present the Board of Water Supply and Tyler Bogardus from O'ahu with awards for their dedication to monitoring and eliminating invasive species in Hawai'i. Tyler was named the "Greatest Hit" for his diligent work with the U.S. Army to protect endangered species on O'ahu by controlling invasive rodents. BWS was named "O'ahu MVP" for their efforts to include watershed protection as a key component of their Water Master Plan and Watershed Management Plans. Mahalo for your dedication to our beautiful paradise and our irreplaceable Hawai'i nei.



Sen. Gabbard presented certificates during the Hawai'i Invasive Species Award Ceremony on Feb. 9 to Amy Tsuneyoshi, Watershed Resource Specialist at BWS; and Ernie Lau, Mgr. and Chief Engineer BWS.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Tyler Bogardus during the Hawai'i Invasive Species Award Ceremony on Feb. 9.



# DISTRICT NEWS

## Career Day Read Aloud



Sen. Gabbard participated in the Kapolei Elementary School "Career Day Read Aloud" on Feb. 2.

I enjoyed spending the morning with students at Kapolei Elementary School recently during their annual Career Day Read Aloud. The goals of this event are to expose students to the enjoyment of reading for pleasure and the importance of reading in others' lives; also to expose them to positive role models and a variety of career paths. This is the 5th year I've participated in KES's Career Day Read Aloud. It's something I look forward to every year. As a former teacher, I wholeheartedly support the program goals. Kapolei Elementary is a student-centered, multi-track, year-round school in my District 20, educating grades K-5 with an integrated curriculum and a

balanced language arts program. Being in the classroom with the keiki brings back many fond memories of my teaching days...maybe it's time for me to retire from politics and get back in the classroom?

## Honorary Certificate

Colonel John Henry Felix, Ph. D., has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) for over 55 years. During his three terms as Wing Commander, he, along with former Governor George Ariyoshi, and former Senators Neil Abercrombie and Percy Mirikitani, took on the project of helping to secure the property and \$600,000 in funding for the headquarters building. He also worked together with Governor John David Waihe'e III to secure the land that became the U.S. Vets Cemetery in Kaneohe.

In order to honor and commemorate the lasting support Colonel Felix has made to the Hawai'i Wing CAP, the CAP building was officially dedicated and named in his honor to forever salute his commitment to CAP. Since CAP's formation during the earliest days of World War II, this vigilant organization of citizen airmen has been committed to serving the U.S.. Founded on December 1, 1941, as a way to protect the nation's shorelines from invading German U-boats, CAP has evolved into a premier public service organization that still carries out emergency service missions when needed—in the air and on the ground.

As a Total Force partner and Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, CAP is there to search for and find the lost, provide comfort in times of disaster, and work to keep the homeland safe. Its 56,000 members selflessly devote their time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities. CAP also significantly promotes aviation and related fields through aerospace and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) education while helping shape future leaders through their cadet program.



Representative Ryan Yamane, Representative Ken Ito, Colonel John Henry Felix, Senator Mike Gabbard Background: Lt Col Fred Staedel (CAP Hawaii Wing Chief of Staff)

CAP's missions for America are many and today's adults and cadets perform their duties with the same vigilance as its founding members—preserving CAP's 75-year legacy of service, while maintaining its commitment to nearly 1,500 communities nationwide.

### Upcoming Community Events!

- ◆ Blue Zones Cooking Demo March 3 @1-2pm  
Kapolei Public Library
- ◆ Villages of Kapolei Third Annual Spring Fair  
April 14, 9am-2pm, 91-111 Kamaaha Loop
- ◆ Sen. Gabbard's Next Listen Story May 2, 2018,  
9-10am, Kapolei High School Teachers Lounge