



**Aloha e Friends,**

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. If you read the newspaper, you know our 2019 Legislative Session finished up with a bang. ;-) This session I was fortunate to have eight bills that I authored pass the Legislature. The Governor has until June 24 to notify us of his intent to veto. Below is a short overview of each of them.

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).

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

### AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

#### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

#### DISTRICT 20

- ◆ Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaheo and Waipahu

#### Next "Listen Story"

My next Listen Story community meeting will be held together with Representative Sharon Har, on Saturday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge. We hope you can join us!

## My Legislation

Below is a short overview of the eight bills I authored this session which passed the House and Senate. The Governor has until June 24 to notify us of his intent to veto.

**Commercial Hemp Program (SB 1353)** – In December 2018, Congress passed the Farm Bill which took hemp off the federal Schedule 1 Controlled Substances List. So with SB 1353, we're on the cusp of taking advantage of hemp's new legal status and opening the door to a new booming industry for our state. This bill will require our Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to establish a commercial hemp program and submit a plan to the USDA on how our program would roll out.

**Agricultural Loan Program (SB 1148)** – The state HDOA's most important program is the agricultural loan revolving fund because it helps farmers get up and running and assists them in times of natural disasters. This bill would provide a \$2.5 million appropriation for that program.

**Agriculture Theft and Vandalism (SB 759)** – Agricultural theft and vandalism is a huge issue in our state and it's important to dedicate some state resources toward reducing this problem. The bill would appropriate \$200,000 to the HDOA to establish a two-year agriculture theft and vandalism pilot project in Hawai'i and Maui counties to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism cases.

**Plastic Reduction (SB 522)** – This bill would establish a plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations to reuse, reduce, recycle, and recover plastic waste. The ultimate goal is to eliminate plastic bags,

polystyrene containers, plastic straws, single-use plastic bottles, plastic utensils, and plastic packaging.

#### Department of Agriculture

**Budget (SB 491, Act 30)** – This bill would provide funding for the operational expenses of the HDOA, including their quality and price assurance branch, general administration for agriculture, and measurement standards.

**Aquaculture (SB 753)** – The Hawai'i aquaculture industry, also



In October 2018, Sen. Gabbard visited aboard the Greenpeace USA's Arctic Sunrise ship to discuss how to reduce single-use plastic.





# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

(My Legislation, continued from p. 1)

known as *aquafarming*, generates more than \$74 million annually. Despite its success, the aquaculture development program has been reduced in staff and function. This bill would appropriate \$500,000 in funding to the HDOA for the revitalization of the aquaculture development program.

**Hawai'i Branding (SB 763)** – Recent legal action has been taken with Pinnacle Foods, Inc, a Delaware corporation for labeling their product line of potato chips as “Hawaiian” even though the chips are made in Washington with little to no ingredients from Hawai'i. This bill would provide the state Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism a \$150,000 appropriation to conduct a study to find out how much revenue our state is losing because of the exploitation of the Hawai'i-brand.

**Produce Safety (SB 754)** – As part of the cooperative agreement between the HDOA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, one of the objectives is for the state to have this authority so that HDOA inspectors can be legally allowed to inspect and regulate farms per the Produce Safety Rule. This bill would enact produce safety rules to authorize HDOA inspectors to inspect and regulate farm producing food in the state to increase food safety.



On April 5, Sen. Gabbard was visited by Bob Kern, VP of Friends of Hanauma Bay at the 11th Annual “Art at the Capitol.”

## Global March for Elephants and Rhinos



On April 26, we recognized the 3rd annual Hawai'i Global March (7th Annual Worldwide) for Elephants, Rhinos, and Wildlife in the Capitol Rotunda, hosted by Nsefu Wildlife. The San Diego-based, non-profit, charitable Nsefu (pronounced Ne-Se'-Fu) Wildlife Conservation Foundation was established in 2015 to stop poaching and to protect wildlife in the game-rich Nsefu sector of Zambia, Africa. Some of you may remember in 2016, I was the lead introducer of SB 2647 (Act 125), the nation's most comprehensive ivory, rhino horn, and wildlife products ban. The law protects elephants from the brutal ivory trade, along with 16 other species: rhino, hippo, tigers, great apes, lions, pangolins, cheetah, jaguar, leopard, and the following marine species: narwhal, whales, walrus, monk seals, sea turtles, sharks, and rays. Mahalo to all who participated in the worldwide rally. Every living creature has a role to play in the intricate wisdom of Mother Nature and deserves our protection...

On April 26, Sen. Gabbard participated in the Global March for Elephants event. (Pictured R-L:) Tony Hunstiger - Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor; Madalyn Purcell; Matt Jisa - Board of Directors, The Vegetarian Society of Hawai'i and Cathy Goeggel - President and Founder of Animal Rights Hawai'i.



# CONSTRUCTION FUNDING FOR SENATE DISTRICT 20

I was pleased we were able to secure \$182,253,000 in the state biennium budget for Fiscal Year 2000-2022 for the benefit of Senate District 20. Here's a quick rundown of that funding:

**Agricultural Land** – plans, land acquisition, design, and equipment for acquisition and development of lands in Kunia - \$15 million

**East Kapolei Middle School** – design, construction, and equipment for the completion of phase 3 of East Kapolei Middle School. The first phase of the school for 6<sup>th</sup> grades will open in Fall 2020 - \$20 million

**Fort Barrette Road Improvements (Roosevelt Avenue to Farrington Highway)** – construction for congestion mitigation and auxiliary transportation facilities along Fort Barrette Road - \$3 million

**Hangar 111 Acquisition** – plans, land acquisition, design, construction, and equipment for the acquisition of Hangar 111 in Kalaeloa - \$11,650,000

**Hawai'i Army National Guard Physical Fitness Center** – design, construction, and equipment of a physical fitness center for National Guard soldiers and personnel in Kalaeloa - \$2.1 million

**National Guard Readiness Centers and Facilities Upgrades and Improvements** – design and construction of improvements and upgrades to National Guard Readiness Centers and Facilities in Kapolei - \$9,552,000

**Kalaeloa Airport Improvements** – design and construction for facility improvements to Kalaeloa Airport - \$13,451,000

**Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor Improvements** – plans, land acquisition, design, and construction of projects that will provide for safer, more efficient use of existing and/or additional operational areas in the Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor - \$104 million

**Kunia East Bound On-Ramp** – plans, design, construction, and equipment for Kunia East Bound H1 On-Ramp - \$100,000

**Kunia Wells** – plans, design, construction, and equipment for an exploratory well in Kunia - \$1 million



On April 15, Sen. Gabbard talked story in the Senate Chambers with Senate Communications Director, Richard Reposo, warming up for "Live at the Legislature."



On April 19, Sen. Gabbard congratulated the Island Pacific Academy girls' varsity tennis team after their victory against Le Jardin Academy at the Kalaeloa Tennis Courts.



On April 3, Sen. Gabbard attended a Future Farmers of America Award Banquet Brunch and presented awards to the top three FFA members who participated in the Prepared Public Speaking event at McKinley High. Pictured L-R: Harvey Tagalicud, (Pahoa High) – "In Vitro: Cultured Controversy," Chynna Chun (Mililani High) – "The Importance of Advocacy in Hawaii Based Agriculture," and La'kea Judd (Kea'au High) – "Rapid Ohi'a Death – Rainforests in Danger."

**Blood Bank of Hawai'i** – plans, design, construction, and equipment for a new facility to permanently house a center for blood component production, a reference testing facility, storage, and distribution in Kapolei - \$1.1 million

**National Kidney Foundation of Hawai'i** – grant-in-aid for assistance in completing the building of the Senator Daniel K. Akaka Community and Kidney Clinical Resource Center in Kapolei - \$600,000

**Special Olympics Hawai'i, Inc.** – grant-in-aid for construction for sports and wellness center in Kapolei - \$700,000

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS



It's tradition to take a staff photo outside the Sen. Gabbard's office on "Sine Die" – signifying the last day of Legislative Session. (Pictured L-R: Thomas Rounds, Shelly Wilkinson, Meg Turner, Rock Riggs and Sautia Tanoa.)

## Mālama 'Āina Field School

Mālama Learning Center will be running their Mālama 'Āina Field School program for Leeward O'ahu students this summer. Please see below for program information.

**Program Dates:** June 17 - July 19, 2019

**Program Time:** 8am - 2:30pm, Monday-Friday

**Location:** Classes held at Nānākuli High & Intermediate School and Wai'anae High School; Multiple field trips per week across the island.

**Audience:** Rising 9th-10th grade students residing in Nānākuli and Wai'anae.

**Cost:** \$75 includes lunches on most days, transportation to huaka'i sites, and supplies; Scholarships are available for families with financial need

**Description:** The Mālama 'Āina Field School is a summer course based at Nānākuli High & Intermediate School and Wai'anae High School for students entering grades 9-10. The primary goal of this program is to strengthen students' core skills in science, math, social studies, and language arts by connecting them to their 'āina and culture. We do this through an integration of both in-class learning and huaka'i (journeys) to various conservation and natural resource management sites throughout the summer. Students can earn an elective credit upon successful completion of this course. This will be our 7th consecutive year running this program made possible with support from the Kamehameha

Schools Wai'anae Coast Region. Here's the [website link](#), which contains links a hardcopy application. They also accept applications [online](#). The application deadline has been extended until program is filled. Contact info: Chelsey Jay at [chelsey@malamalearningcenter.org](mailto:chelsey@malamalearningcenter.org)

## Goldstar REAL ID Deadline is October 1, 2020

The city's Department of Customer Services is reminding O'ahu residents that if they choose to use their driver licenses or state IDs for air travel, the federal government requires the credential to bear the gold star marking by Oct. 1, 2020. Please note this deadline is approximately 18 months from now. So far, more than 190,000 O'ahu residents have gotten the REAL ID-compliant driver license or state ID since they became available in January 2018. However, nearly 10,000 people are expected to obtain these documents every month in 2020, when their licenses or IDs become due for renewal. The REAL ID Act, which Congress created 14 years ago as a more rigorous security measure following the 2001 terrorist attacks, requires residents to prove their identity through the gold-star marked cards by Oct. 1, 2020 if they want to use that particular credential to board domestic flights and enter federal facilities. To renew driver licenses or state IDs with the gold star, residents can book an appointment at [honolulu.gov/csd](http://honolulu.gov/csd). The appointment system offers bookings up to three months in advance. It can take six weeks for a permanent card to arrive in the mail, so residents are asked to remain patient during this waiting period.



On May 2, Sen. Gabbard participated in the Official Senate Portrait of the Thirtieth Legislature of the Hawai'i State Capitol. The photo was taken for the time capsule, which will be opened in 50 years.