



Aloha e Friends,

I completed my 13th Legislative Session as your State Senator on May 2, 2019. Some of the session highlights included passing legislation to set up a vote-by-mail system starting with the 2020 elections, creating an Hawai'i Correctional System Oversight Commission, establishing an electric vehicle charging station rebate program, and implementing the kupuna caregivers program. Here's an overview of the session and things happening in our community that may be of interest to you and your 'ohana. A big congrats to all the graduates of James Campbell High, Kapolei High, Waipahu High, Island Pacific Academy, American Renaissance Academy, and Youth Challenge Academy. I wish these graduates great success in their chosen paths in

life. As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or 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 www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

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- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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



On May 2, Sen. Gabbard celebrated 'Sine Die,' the last day of our Legislative Session, with his staff. L-R: Sen. Gabbard, Thomas Rounds, Shelly Wilkinson, Meg Turner, Rock Riggs, Sautia Tanoa.

Kalaeloa Heritage Park Stewardship

I was stoked to learn that the Hawai'i Community Development Authority is moving forward with plans to sign a stewardship agreement with the Kalaeloa Heritage and Legacy Foundation for the Kalaeloa Heritage Park. The park is located on 77 acres of land in Kalaeloa off Coral Sea Road and is home to many well-preserved archaeological artifacts. Last July, I was contacted by the KHLF Board regarding their concerns that HCDA was planning to terminate their lease at the Kalaeloa Heritage Park. I held a series of meetings with HCDA and KHLF in the

"Listen Story"

My next Listen Story community meeting will be on Saturday, August 24, 2019, from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Ewa Mahiko District Park Meeting Room.

I hope you can join me!



On March 28, Sen. Gabbard honored the Hawai'i Youth Challenge Academy on their 25th Anniversary. R-L: YCA Director-Sina Atanoa; Operations Chief-Pasila Taua; Program Coordinator-Brandon Suzuki; Hilo Interim Director-Ku'ulei Kekuewa; Mentor Coordinator-Margaret Tatum; Lead Counselor-Penina McMoore; Lead Instructor-Sesega Sivatia; and YCA Class 50 Student President -Cadet Fernandez Sauvao.

hopes that KHLF could continue doing their cultural and historical restoration work. As the State Senator for the area and a 15-year resident of Kalaeloa, I'm convinced that it's critically important that we support projects like the Kalaeloa Heritage Park to preserve our community's cultural identity and military history.



2019 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OVERVIEW

There was a total of 3,142 bills introduced during the 2019 Legislative Session (1,597 in the House and 1,545 in the Senate). Of those, 303 bills passed the Legislature. The Governor has three choices for the bills that passed: he can sign the bills into law, allow the bills to become law without his signature, or veto the bills. Here are the next major deadlines:

June 24 – Deadline for the Governor to notify the Legislature if he intends to veto any of the bills.

July 9 – Deadline for the Governor to veto bills and for the Legislature to come back into Special Session to override any of those vetoes.

If you're interested, please let the Governor know how you feel about any of the legislation by calling him at 586-0034 or filling out the "Contact Us" form here:

<https://governor.hawaii.gov/contact-us/comments-on-legislation/>

As far as our state spending, the 2020-2022 operating budget included a total of \$31.3 billion in spending. Some of the major components include: 19% for Medicaid; 14% for Education; 9% for Transportation; 8% for UH; 7% for Health; 7% for Retirement Benefits; 6% for Debt Services; and 6% for Human Services.

My Legislation

Below is a short overview of the eight bills I authored this session which passed the House and Senate.

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) - Agriculture 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.

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 Hawaii-brand.

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 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.

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.

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 6th 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 Kalaeloa - \$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

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



Sen. Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates from the Hawai'i State Senate to the Kapolei High School Valedictorians on May 24, including this surprised graduate, Shannelle Baliguat-Lamoya, and her family.



On March 15, Sen. Gabbard attended the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of the Hawai'i State Capitol.



On January 25, during the Secondary Student Conference at the Capitol, Sen. Gabbard discussed his session priorities with Kapolei High School students: L-R: Megan Chew, Queenie Abarcar, Trisha Anne Dayrit, and Student Activities Coordinator, Mr. Daryl Madela.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Villages of Kapolei Road Dedication

It's been a long time coming, but the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation is now moving forward with dedicating the roads in the Villages of Kapolei under their jurisdiction to the City. During my time in office, this has been a big frustration because it has made maintenance of the roads and upgrades very slow to happen. On May 6, 2019, I received the following update from HHFDC's Executive Director, Craig Hirai, on their progress:

Overall dedication: HHFDC and the City and County of Honolulu (City) are working on a draft Memorandum of Agreement which will outline the dedication efforts and responsibilities.

Sewers: the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) License as Easement was signed by DHHL and submitted to the City for execution. HHFDC is procuring services from a Special Deputy Attorney General to assist with the legal documents required to turn over the sewer to the City. The Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund appropriation for fiscal year 2020 will allow HHFDC to proceed with the Farrington Highway and portion of Backbone 1 dedication efforts as contemplated.

As an added clarification, this past session, I requested \$4 million in funding for the rehabilitation of infrastructure, roads, landscaping, and perimeter walls to begin the roads dedication process from HHFDC to the City. This funding is included in the \$67 million that the Legislature appropriated for the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund.



On March 28, Sen. Gabbard introduced 83 cadets from Class 50 in the Senate Chamber on the 50th Anniversary of the Youth Challenge Academy in O'ahu.



Sen. Gabbard celebrated the 3rd annual Hawai'i Global March (7th Annual Worldwide) for Elephants, Rhinos, and Wildlife on April 26 in the Capitol Rotunda, hosted by Nsefu Wildlife. R-L: Tony Hunstiger-Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Madalyn Purcell, Matt Jisa-The Vegetarian Society of Hawai'i Board of Directors, Cathy Goeggel-President and Founder of Animal Rights Hawai'i.



Sen. Gabbard honored RiceUp Farmers, Inc. on the Senate Chamber floor on Feb. 19. Their mission is to enrich communities through entrepreneurship and sustainable farming systems that benefit both the farmer and the consumer.