



Aloha e Friends,

In July/August, I attended four legislative conferences (State Ag and Rural Leaders 2019 Legislative Ag Chairs Summit in Calgary, Canada; Council on State Governments–West 72nd Annual Meeting in Montana, National Caucus of Environmental Legislators 2019 National Forum and National Conference of State Legislatures 2019 Legislative Summit, both in Nashville). I was able to bring back a lot of ideas for legislation. The average age of our farmers is 60.1 years old. Since becoming Chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee 4 years ago, recruiting young farmers into this noble profession has been a top priority. I was stoked that we were able to connect with the National Young Farmers Coalition

at NCSL. Their main mission is helping young farmers across the country. They're assisting us in putting together some legislation to support young farmers. Please stay tuned.... 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.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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

Hemp Update

I've been meeting with different folks and getting the latest update about hemp since the 2019 legislative session ended in May. At the NCSL 2019 Legislative Summit in Nashville in August 2019, Sonia Jimenez, Deputy Administrator for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Marketing Service gave a presentation about hemp. She said the following:



Sen. and Carol Gabbard stand in a field of hemp at the UH Waimanalo Research Station in the Spring of 2018.

- ◆ The USDA is working on hemp program regulation guidance and is on track to release it in the fall 2019
- ◆ The goal is to complete this for growing in the 2020 season
- ◆ Regulations will include testing/sampling; licensing requirements; ensuring compliance; trade; felony convictions; financial services; and seed
- ◆ Growers will have two options – state sets up a plan and USDA will approve within 60 days of being submitted or growers can get licenses from USDA

Our commercial hemp bill, SB 1353, was vetoed by Governor Ige in 2019. He said in his veto message that: "There are concerns that this bill creates a licensing structure that cannot be enforced, will not meet USDA requirements for an approved industrial hemp program, and creates practical problems in the enforcement of existing

medical cannabis. Although the 2018 Farm Bill removes hemp from the controlled substances list, there are restrictions in SB1353 that would prevent Hawai'i from properly regulating this industry. Hawai'i's unique tropical environment and year-round growth calendar allows between three to four crop cycles per year. While this is a positive for most crops, the fine line between hemp and marijuana creates complexities. The limitation of inspection to one time per calendar year would allow hemp growers to cultivate marijuana for the remainder of the calendar year following their one allowed inspection."

In the meantime, we still have our pilot hemp research program under the state Department of Agriculture until June 30, 2021. Farmers can grow up to 10 acres of hemp under the pilot. Right now, we have 30 licensees who are authorized to grow up to 200 acres of hemp.



FUTURE VISIONS

Green Passport Initiative

In late August, I met with Ann Botticelli, Senior Vice President for Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at Hawaiian Airlines and Dr. Kamana'o pono Crabbe, former Office of Hawaiian Affairs CEO. They are with Hawai'i Executive Conference, which is on a journey of "Rediscovering Hawai'i's Soul." The Hawai'i Executive Conference was originally established in 1963 to provide executives from Hawai'i and the Pacific with a forum for the exchange of knowledge and ideas. They are challenging business executives, elected officials, community advocates, and Native Hawaiian leaders to commit to a future grounded in culture, good values, collective collaboration, and courageous leadership to address the complexities confronting Hawai'i. This aspirational "can do" future is "to fulfill our Hawai'i Dream through collaboration and underlying commitment." They are designing a prototype for a Green Passport Initiative that will bring increased revenue to conservation, stewardship, and community development in Hawai'i using non-resident dollars. This could include a mandatory green fee (for non-US residents) or voluntary fund (airlines, rental cars, cruises). Their goal: double the investment in conservation in Hawaii within in 5 years, creating \$500 million in increased financing for environmental stewardship. Their 10/50/500 Vision is based on the following--10 million visitors per year, \$50 conservation contribution per visitor, and \$500 million annually for conservation. This would be

managed by a public/private governing board. I'll be helping to introduce this legislation in 2020. Special Session The State Senate will hold a Special Session on September 16-17, 2019 to consider seven judges who've been nominated by Governor Ige and State Supreme Court Chief Justice Recktenwald to fill vacancies. Under the State Constitution, the State Senate has the responsibility of confirming judges. During the confirmation process, I'll also be participating in Judiciary Committee hearings as a member of that committee on these nominees.

Kulana Hale Ground Breaking

I spoke at the ground breaking of the \$130 million Phase 2 of Kulana Hale mixed-use affordable senior and multifamily apartment community in Kapolei on August 28th. This Phase adds a second 13-story high-rise tower with 143 affordable units for families and approximately 2,300 square feet of ground floor retail space and will be completed in April 2021. The project is being jointly developed by Highridge Costa, Coastal Rim Properties, and the Hawaiian Community Development Board. Now under construction is the 13-story Phase 1 that has 154 affordable units for seniors, including 22 studios, 109 one-bedroom apartments, 22 two-bedroom apartments and one 1-bedroom manager's unit. Phase 1 will be completed in April 2020 and will also include 7,500 square feet of commercial space.



Sen. Gabbard spoke at the ground breaking of the \$130 million Phase 2 of Kulana Hale mixed-use affordable senior and multifamily apartment community in Kapolei on August 28.

COMMUNITY PROJECT UPDATES

- ◆ **Hele/7-11 Gas Station** – opened near the intersection of Kapolei Parkway and Ft. Barrette on August 16, 2019; there will be a blessing and grand opening on September 7, 2019.
- ◆ **Kaiser Permanente West Oahu Medical Office** – groundbreaking for 40,000 sq. ft. medical facility took place on July 2, 2019 and will open in early 2021; will have family, adult, & keiki care; prevention and wellness programs; mental health services; laboratory; and pharmacy
- ◆ **Kalaeloa Energy Corridor Phase 2** (from Langley to Midway) – project will consist of excavating of roadways and shoulders for new underground duct lines (electrical conduits) & manholes and the restoration and repair of roadways; construction began in July 2019 and will be completed in February 2020; DOT has signed agreement with HECO to put in electrical line on Enterprise Electrical Corridor to Kapolei Parkway; will cost them \$2 million.
- ◆ **Marriott Residence Inn** - a 183-unit hotel; will open in October 2019 near the corner of Ft. Barrette Rd. and Kapolei Parkway.
- ◆ **Straub Kapolei Clinic** – As of August 15, 2019, the most comprehensive clinic to date from Hawai'i Pacific Health is now open to serve

residents of Central and West O'ahu. Straub Medical Center – Kapolei Clinic & Urgent Care offers a variety of services and features specialists from Straub Medical Center, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children and Pali Momi Medical Center. The 16,000-square-foot medical clinic is located in The Grove at Ka Makana Ali'i. Services include primary care, urgent care and pediatric sports medicine. The clinic also has on-site imaging and laboratory services. Specialty care services for both children and adults, including OB-GYN, will also be available in the near future. Specialists will include physicians who currently practice at Kapi'olani, Pali Momi and Straub who will have office hours on select days at the Kapolei clinic.



Sen. Gabbard attended the Kaiser Permanente West O'ahu Medical Office groundbreaking on July 2. (Pictured L-R: Dave Underriner, President of Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals, Hawai'i Region; Rep. Sharon Har; Frank Richardson, VP, Gov't Relations for Kaiser; Councilmember Kymberly Pine and Sen. Gabbard.)



Sen. Gabbard attended the Straub Medical Center - Kapolei Clinic & Urgent Care Open House on August 15. (Pictured L-R: Michael Robinson, Vice President of Government Relations and Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health; Sen. Fevella; Art Gladstone, Chief Executive Officer of Pali Momi Medical Center and Straub Medical Center; Martha Smith, Chief Executive Officer of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children; Sen. Gabbard; Ray Vara, President and Chief Executive Officer of Hawai'i Pacific Health .)

Waipahu Family Fair

The Department of Education Complex and Weed & Seed are sponsoring the Waipahu Family Fair on September 21st from 10am to 1pm at the Waipahu Intermediate School Cafeteria. There will be over 30 organizations and schools sharing their services at the event. It will also include free entertainment, door prizes, and parking. For more information, please contact Lorrie Kanno at LorrieK@weedandseedhi.org.



HONORARY CERTIFICATES

Kapolei Public Library 15th Anniversary

I presented an Honorary Certificate at the 15th Anniversary of the Kapolei Public Library on August 24th. Kapolei Public Library first opened its doors on August 16, 2004. Kapolei Library was built on land provided to the state in trust by Campbell Estate, and has more than 48,000 registered patrons and visitors. At 35,000 square feet, it's the second largest public library in the state! Looking back, almost 25 years ago, in 1997–1998, \$9.34 million in funding was appropriated for the construction of the Kapolei Public Library. The Groundbreaking Ceremony took place on December 15, 2000 and in the spring 2002, construction of the library was completed. In Fiscal Year 2003, the Hawai'i State Legislature funded 5 positions, which included the Library's first permanent branch manager, Richard Burns on July 01, 2003. Later that year, four other positions were filled and by August 2004 the majority of the 24 positions were filled. In addition to the 24 full-time staff, there are nine student volunteers. With a collection of approximately 143,000 items Kapolei Public Library has become the busiest library on O'ahu!



Sen. Gabbard attended the Kapolei Public Library 15th Anniversary celebration Aug. 24. Pictured L-R with Kahu Kelekona Bishaw, Councilmember Kymberly Pine and State Librarian, Stacey Aldrich.

(Continued from p. 1) I'd like to see our local farmers be able to get their commercial hemp licenses directly from the USDA. In order to do that, we'll need to enact legislation in 2020 to create an affirmative defense to cannabis penalties for: Cultivation of hemp under a federal or state program; and possession, sale, and transportation of hemp products coming from a federal/state legal program.

By the way, my daughter Hawai'i Congresswoman and Democratic Presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard is a big advocate for hemp and on July 9, 2019 introduced H.R. 3652 - the "Hemp for Victory Act." The bill title is taken from a 1942 USDA Hemp for Victory Act educational film that lauds the benefits of hemp. The legislation's objective is to build a hemp industry that is done correctly, meaning that there are proper labor, consumer, and health standards; investment incentives; safe agricultural practices; environmental considerations; and more.



Villages of Kapolei Mauka Hall Grand Opening

I presented an Honorary Certificate at the Grand Opening of the Villages of Kapolei (VOK) Mauka Hall in Kapolei on August 24th to General Manager, Larry Sussman. The Mauka Hall was a joint venture with Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation and was designed by Cooke and Castle. The Villages of Kapolei Association recently took possession of the Mauka Hall in July 2019. It includes 3 conference rooms that can accommodate up to 160 people each and a catering kitchen. The Villages of Kapolei are comprised of eight villages which lie on 888 acres of land. The villages are: Kumu 'iki, A'eloa, Malana'i, Kekuilani, Iwalani, Malu'ohai (Hawaiian Homestead), Kapolei Kai, and Kaupe'a (Hawaiian Homestead), and include approximately 5,000 units. The new recreation multi-purpose center, Mauka Hall, was built for the eight communities in the Villages of Kapolei, and is open to the public to use for community events and outside the community with a Board of Director's sponsorship.