



## *Aloha e friends,*

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your ohana! I can't believe a year has gone by but am looking forward to another feast of Thanksgiving tofurkey and stuffing with family and friends on November 28!

A couple of days later on November 30, the City will host Kapolei City Lights. This is a free event with keiki games & activities, photos with Santa, and entertainment. The West O'ahu Electric Light Parade will be from 6pm-7pm, starting at the intersection of Ft. Barrette and Kapolei Parkway and ending at the intersection of Kama'aha Avenue and Kapolei Parkway. The Holiday Courtyard festivities will be from 5pm to 10pm. As always, please contact me at 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). Me ke aloha pumehana,

## Ideas for Legislation

Our 2020 legislative session will begin on January 15. I'm interested in your ideas, if you'd like to offer suggestions for changes or improvements in how our state government operates. You don't have to have a full-fledged bill written out, just a few bullet points to get us started and we'll take it from there. Please let me know. The deadline for introducing new bills is usually one week after session starts.



## **Marriott Residence Inn Opens in Kapolei**

A big welcome to Marriott for their Grand Opening of the Residence Inn in Kapolei on November 1. The 183-suite hotel will be located near Kapolei Parkway off Ft. Barrette Road. Residence Inn properties are designed as all-suite hotels that offer studio and one- and two-bedroom suites for stays of five nights or more. Each suite also has a fully equipped kitchen with a coffeemaker, microwave oven and residential-sized appliances. The hotel is pet-friendly and provides guests with business services, an outdoor swimming pool, a fitness center, an outdoor fire pit, barbecue grills and bocce ball court. The hotel also features an in-house electronic concierge offering numerous activities in the O'ahu area.



## COMMITTEE CHAIR

**AGRICULTURE &  
ENVIRONMENT**

## MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

## DISTRICT 20

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

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

## REAL-ID Compliance Deadline

An important heads up: As of October 1, 2020 you'll need a REAL-ID compliant driver's license or state ID in order to pass TSA check points at airports in order to fly and also to access federal buildings and military bases. A compliant REAL-ID has a gold star on the upper right corner. At this point, over 300,000 driver's licenses and 200,000 state IDs need to be updated on O'ahu alone. So please look into this as soon as possible for you and your family! For more details, check out the City's Department of Customer Services here: [honolulu.gov/csd](http://honolulu.gov/csd).

## PowerPlus Battery Storage Project

I wrote a letter of support for PlusPower's proposal to develop a stand-alone battery storage project in Kapolei in response to the Hawaiian Electric Company's Phase 2 RFP for Renewable Energy on October 23. This project will be an asset providing grid support services and allow the addition of more renewable energy to the HECO grid. PlusPower's project would be built on approximately 13 acres of land in Campbell Industrial Park. PlusPower has attended a number of Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board monthly meetings informing the community of its development plan, answering questions about the site and battery storage technology it intends to deploy, and providing project development updates.

## Navy Not Doing Enough to Protect Our Water at Red Hill Tank Facility

As the Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, I stand with the Board of Water Supply and the community in continuing to urge the Navy to move forward with either double-walling the Red Hill Fuel Tanks or moving them altogether in order to protect our drinking water supply. I was very disappointed that at a recent meeting of the Fuel

Tank Advisory Committee, chaired by the state Department of Health, the Navy pointed out that they don't plan to double-wall the fuel tanks and want to delay upgrading or shutting the tanks down to 2045, instead of 2037 as has been planned. *(cont. p. 3)*

## Tree Giveaway on Arbor Event

The Department of Land and Natural Resources has announced that on November 2 there will be five Arbor Day tree giveaway events as part of their Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program. Planting trees is an important way to mitigate the impacts of climate change. An important fact to consider is that Honolulu lost over 76,600 trees in just four years, but has 7,924 acres that could be used for trees—and that is just in our communities and urban areas. There will be two giveaways on O'ahu starting at 9am:

- ◆ Honolulu – Foster Botanical Garden (180 N. Vineyard Blvd.)
- ◆ Pearl City – Urban Garden Center (955 Kamehameha Hwy.)

For more information, please visit:

[arbordayhawaii.org/](http://arbordayhawaii.org/)

## Influenza (Flu) Everything That You Wanted to Know But Were Afraid to Ask

Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu will be hosting a free lecture on influenza (flu) on November 21 from 6pm to 7pm in their Lobby (91-2141 Fort Weaver Road) in Ewa Beach. Dr. James Jones will discuss:

- ◆ Flu symptoms and how they compare to other upper respiratory illnesses
- ◆ Prevention
- ◆ Diagnosis and treatment options
- ◆ Complications

There will be free parking available. Space is limited and reservations are required by calling the Queen's Referral Line at 691-7117.

# COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Navy, cont. from p. 2)*

I recently provided comments to the EPA and the Department of Health stating my objection to the Navy's plan. The Navy's position that the considerable risks associated with storing nearly 200 million gallons of fuel 100-feet above our sole-source aquifer is sufficiently mitigated by simply continuing with the status quo is a decision that these regulatory agencies should not accept. If tank within a tank secondary containment is not feasible, then the fuel should be relocated away from the aquifer. I plan to introduce legislation related to Red Hill once again in 2020.

## **Support for Kānehili Community Cultural Park**

I wrote a letter to the Director of the Department of Home Lands, Bill Aila, on October 25 to express my full support for the ongoing development of the Kānehili Community Cultural Park in Kapolei. The 4.5-acre park will be a vital amenity for residents in the Kānehili community for several reasons. It will stimulate community engagement, encourage social interaction, promote health and wellness, and will serve as a green space for those involved in recreational or sporting activities. It will improve their physical, mental and emotional wellbeing, which in turn benefits the entire community. Given that there are three other homestead communities in the Kapolei region, it's estimated that the Kānehili Community Park will ultimately serve well over 2,000 beneficiaries. The Kānehili Community Association was recently approved as a 501 (C) (3) charitable organization by the IRS. Their decision to become a public charity was made to help meet the pervasive and unique challenges facing the native Hawaiian community. These charitable activities will take place in a future built community center at the park. A temporary location is being explored.

## **Conservation Council for Hawai'i Looking for New Executive Director**

I'm helping to get the word out about a great job opening focused on the protection of our environment. Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Hawai'i's oldest wildlife conservation organization, is looking for a new Executive Director. This important position is open after the death of their longtime leader, Marjorie Zielger. CCH was established in 1950 and is dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations, and has been the state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation for over 40 years. This is a full-time position, which includes benefits and requires regional and national travel as well as occasional evenings and/or weekends. The salary is commensurate with experience.

Benefits include:

- ♦ Fully paid health insurance through HMSA that includes medical, dental, and vision.
- ♦ Paid days off including 10 federal holidays, 2 floating personal holidays, and vacation and sick leave.

If you're interested, please submit a cover letter along with a resume to [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org).





# LEGISLATIVE ANNOUNCEMENTS



Senator Gabbard spoke at the "Reverse Job Fair" at the Hawai'i State Capitol in 2018.

## Reverse Job Fair

I was a part of the Legislative Host Committee for the Reverse Job Fair on October 29 from 9am to 12pm in the Chamber Level of the State Capitol. This was a Reverse Job Fair for persons with developmental disabilities. During the fair each job seeker had a table set up with a presentation board to showcase their interests, strengths and abilities for prospective employers. The employers then visited each job applicant, instead of the applicant approaching employers. This is the 2nd year for this event. There were 77 job seekers and 80 employers/human resource professionals. This was a joint collaboration with the Governor's office, Department of Health, Department of Human Services, and the UH Center on Disability Studies. The timing of the job fair coincided with "Disability Employment Awareness Month" during the month of October. The theme was "The Right Talent, Right Now." As an aside, my sister, Barbara Ann Gabbard, has developmental disabilities and has had a rewarding experience

working at Goodwill Hawai'i in Kapolei for many years.

## Environmental Legislative Caucus Happening

As the Chair of the Agriculture and Environment Committee, I'm collaborating with Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair of the Energy and Environmental Protection Committee, on creating an Environmental Legislative Caucus here at the Legislature. This Caucus will include members from both the House and Senate. The goal of the Caucus will be to work on the many challenging environmental issues we face. We plan to meet quarterly, starting with a meeting prior to the 2020 session.



## The Hawai'i State Senate Gardening Moai

The Senate Gardening Moai\* held its kick-off event on October 29, right outside my office. This project supports the Senate Wellness Advisory Committee's efforts to obtain [Blue Zones](#) accreditation for the Senate's work site. Studies have shown that employees with access to a workplace garden reap many benefits; green spaces are said to improve intelligence, mood and focus, and encourage camaraderie, trust, collaboration and team spirit. Employees with a workplace garden also have greater access to healthy produce and can learn more about growing their own food at home and making healthy lifestyle choices. It's great to see something like this happening at our State Capitol and workplace. \*(moai—pronounced mow-eye—comes from Okinawa, Japan. It means "meeting for a common purpose to support one another.")

