

Aloha e friends,

I hope this finds you and your 'ohana well. As we enter the second half of our 2020 Session, after having introduced over 2,000 bills in January, we understand that what's important isn't how many bills we introduce, but how many – and which ones – make it to the finish line, which ends up being only about ten percent. But – we're getting ahead of ourselves... *(please read below to learn more...)*

As always, please 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](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at facebook.com/senmikegabbard

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Labor, Culture & the Arts

DISTRICT 20

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

The Legislative Process and COVID-19

First Crossover was March 5. This is when bills that passed Third Reading in their originating chambers cross over to the opposite chamber.

Usually only a third of the bills make it past this first hurdle on their journey to becoming a law. Bills that survive this far have made good progress but still have a long way to go! We just received some new rules as well that affect the hearing process...

In an effort to curb the Corona virus, the Senate has taken steps to help make us safer here at the Capitol. While committee hearings will remain open to the public, you're urged to submit written testimony electronically and watch select hearings online to achieve "social distancing" and avoid spreading the virus.

The amount of seating in the conference rooms will be reduced to allow those who attend hearings in person to maintain a reasonable distance from each other and keep the total number of occupants to a minimum.

Televisions will be placed outside of hearing rooms and testers will be encouraged to remain outside until the bill they are interested in is up

for consideration. We will be implementing crowd control measures to ensure the orderly flow of testers in and out of the conference rooms during hearings. Signage will be posted on all conference room doors requesting the public's cooperation with these new procedures. Live streaming of all Senate floor sessions and select committee hearings will be available on YouTube and Facebook Live to allow the public to monitor proceedings from their homes or offices.

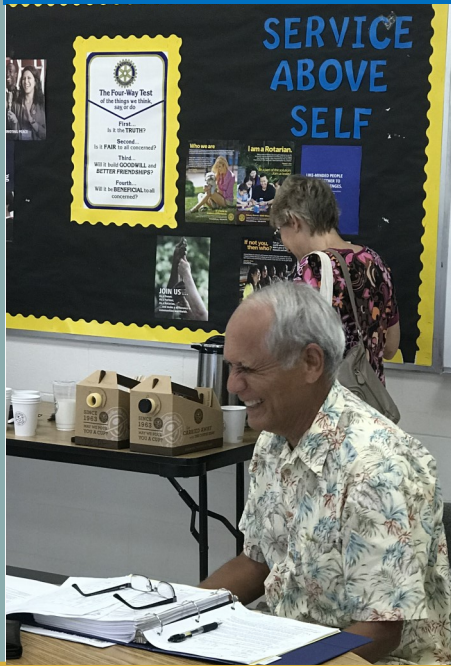
March 12 was the Triple Referral Filing deadline. This was the last day for a bill referred to three or more committees to move into its second-to-last committee in the non-originating chamber. The committee must vote to move the bill forward and file the committee report and any new draft of the bill by this day. *(Continued on p. 2)*



Sen. Gabbard at his Agriculture and Environment Committee Hearing on March 13, 2020.



MY 2020 LEGISLATION



Sen. Gabbard held a Listen Story Community meeting on Feb. 29, 2020 at the Kapolei High School teachers' lounge.

Key Legislation

In my 4th year as Chair of AEN, and 14th session as your State Senator, I continue to be dedicated to growing more farmers, increasing our local food production, moving us in the direction of sustainable, regenerative ag, reducing the threat of invasive species, protecting our environment, and making district improvements.

Toward those goals, key legislation that is

making its way through the legislature includes: SB 2703, a beginning farmers and ranchers grant program within the Department of Agriculture to assist with start-up and organizational costs; SB 2713, a bill that establishes an invasive species rapid response trust fund to help address invasive species emergencies; and SB 2742, a bill to make theft of a catalytic converter from a vehicle's exhaust system a Class C felony.



On March 9, Sen. Gabbard honored Ray Aivazian III, Sophia and Lucas Magel, and Scott Kunihiro for their efforts to remove microplastics from our shores.

Hahaione Elementary Students' Microplastics Machine Floor Presentation

Distressed by the amount of debris on our shores after participating in a beach clean-up, Ray Aivazian III designed a machine that removes microplastics from our beaches. He calls it a Buoyancy Separation Device.

He then went on to create a STEM-based curriculum for different grade levels which allows keiki to create a BSD, participate in a beach cleanup, extricate natural and synthetic material in the vacuum chamber, and then separate it into different size categories. This process will add to our understanding of shoreline marine debris accumulation.

Inspired by reading about Mr. Aivazian's mission and his inventions, Lucas and Sophia Magel, Hahaione Elementary School students, created a slideshow that they presented to their school's Parent Teacher Student Association, requesting funding for materials to build a few of Mr. Aivazian's devices with their classmates.

The PTSA awarded Lucas and Sophia the funds. Their first BSD build-and-beach trial went off without a hitch. Eventually, Sophia and Lucas formally started a club called "The Green and Blue Crew." The crew started a new recycling program at Hahaione Elementary School, and they hope to eliminate plastic forks in the cafeteria.

On March 9, 2020, I co-sponsored an Honorary Certificate with Senator Stanley Chang to commend Ray Aivazian III and the Magel's for their work. Their efforts are an inspiration to others, creating a movement to spread awareness, rehabilitate our shorelines, and make a real difference in the world.

(continued from p. 1)

April 3 is the Second Reading deadline for the last committee in the non-originating chamber to pass a bill out and file the committee report and the latest draft of the bill. It must also pass Second Reading by this time. The decking deadline ensures that legislators have enough time (at least 48 hours) to review the exact wording of a bill draft before being asked to vote on the bill in Third Reading.

LEGISLATIVE EVENTS

13th Annual Ag Day at the Capitol

As Agriculture and Environment Committee Chair (AEN), on February 5, I, along with some of my colleagues, hosted the 13th Annual “Agricultural Day at the Capitol. Ag Day showcases Hawai‘i’s diverse agricultural industry and the many partnerships that make up this thriving industry. Sixty-two exhibitors participated. Ag Awareness Day, which is sponsored by the Hawai‘i Farm Bureau, is an opportunity for policymakers and the public to learn about Hawai‘i’s agriculture industry and meet many of the organizations and people who supply our communities with locally grown and produced products. The dozens of agriculture, environment and eco-friendly groups and organizations provided information to the public, hosted interactive educational activities, served food, and gave out souvenirs.

20th Annual State Council on Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol

March 5, 2020 was the 20th annual State Council on Developmental Disabilities Day at the Capitol. Mahalo to the council for holding this special event and to their co-sponsors, the Hawaii Self-Advocacy Council, Hilopa‘a Family to Family Health Information Center, and Hawaii Waiver Providers Associations, for their support! This event provides an opportunity for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and their families, to participate in the legislative process.

During the event on Thursday, my office was visited by a group from Goodwill’s Ho‘olana Program in Kapolei (pictured). These enthusiastic individuals volunteer, self-advocate, and participate in community integration activities. The Ho‘olana program utilizes a group setting while allowing its participants to choose their own goals based on what they want to learn and how they want to succeed in life. For more information on this appreciable program and others offered by Goodwill please visit: <https://www.higoodwill.org/goodwill-programs/community-services/intellectual-disabilities-services/>.

Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council Awards

The Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) aims to implement statewide invasive species prevention, early detection



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and control programs for terrestrial and aquatic invaders. The efforts of HISC partners are crucial in controlling invasive species, noted as the greatest threat to Hawai‘i’s economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai‘i’s people. On February 14, I was honored to present the O‘ahu MVP Award to Dean Takayama of HDOT for his efforts to remove Native Nao plants along state roadways in order to limit the spread of the invasive Nao thrips. I also presented Ron Fitzgerald of Waianae HS, Hawai‘i Department of Education with the Community Hero Award, which recognizes a community member or community-based group that has been a shining example of dedication to prevent and/or manage invasive species. Ron Fitzgerald has been a shining example of a Community Hero in the battle against the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB).



Sen. Gabbard presented the Community Hero Award to Ron Fitzgerald at the Hawaii Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) 2020 proclamation & awards ceremony with Governor David Ige on Feb. 14.

MARCH NEWS

Small Business Administration Honoree

On March 5, 2020, Senator Wakai honored several Small Business Administration awardees. One of the awardees lives in my district. I had the opportunity to give him his certificate and to give a brief speech on his success. Congratulations Ricky Price and mahalo for all that you do for the people in your community through your business!

Opening of Kapolei Interchange

The Kapolei Interchange Project began in mid-2016. Finally, on February 13, the Department of Transportation held a blessing and dedication ceremony for the opening of Phase 2



On March 5, Sen. Gabbard recognized Ricky Price of Fastlube Inc. for "Entrepreneurial Success of the Year."



Sen. Gabbard honored Hawai'i Small Business Award Recipients on March 5, 2020

Sen. Gabbard ran into this Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle during the 2020 Agriculture Awareness Day at the Capitol on Feb. 5.

of the project. After the ceremony, the interchange was opened to the public.

This new interchange provides motorists with an extended overpass of Wakea Street above the H-1 Freeway, connecting on and off ramps, and directional signage. With these improvements, westbound motorists will have an alternate route into Kapolei, as well as an alternate route out of Kapolei via the onramp to Westbound Farrington Highway. It is expected to increase traffic flow by reducing the number of motorists taking the Makakilo offramp and motorists on Kalaeloa Boulevard.

The total cost of the Kapolei Interchange project is \$64.5 million, with 80-percent federal funding and 20-percent state funding. The James Campbell Company, LLC provided approximately \$5.7 million in land value, design fees, and other consultant fees, which were considered as part of the state match on the project.



Sen. Gabbard with Farm Mentorship Project Director, Phyllis Robinson, Ed. D. and apprentices, Jessie Blaiylock and Derek Burr, at the Capitol on Agriculture Awareness Day 2020.