

Aloha e Friends,

Our legislative session will end a week early this year on April 29. So far, we've been very fortunate to avoid any COVID-19 outbreaks at the Capitol, which might have forced us to delay our work. By the way, the state Department of Health opened up vaccines for those 60 and older as of March 29. My next "Listen Story" meeting will be May 8, where I'll give a wrap-up of what happened this session.

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 [@GabbardAloha](https://www.instagram.com/GabbardAloha), or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

Best wishes to you and your 'ohana.

Me ke aloha pumehana,




COVID-19 Vaccination Sites Open

Two new COVID-19 Vaccination Sites opened in Ewa/Kapolei at the end of March. Here's an overview of each:

Queen's Medical Center - West O'ahu

The Queen's Medical Center opened a mass COVID-19 vaccination clinic at its West O'ahu campus on March 24. The hospital will immunize residents 65 and older, those with high-risk medical conditions and hotel, restaurant and bar workers in phase 1c in the Clinical Service Center Building from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily, except on Mondays. Online appointments will open on Thursday at <https://covid.queens.org/vaccine/> or schedule over the phone at 691-2222.

Kaiser Permanente



Kaiser Permanente has partnered with Consolidated Theatres and opened a mass vaccination site in Kapolei, at 890 Kamokila Blvd. on March 30. Individuals who are part of phase 1c, which includes residents 65 years of age and older and frontline essential workers, will have access to COVID-19 vaccination appointments at the Theatres. Both Kaiser Permanente members and non-members are eligible. All shots are by appointment only, register at kp.org/covidvaccine. The large physical space and ample parking at Kapolei Consolidated Theatres will allow Kaiser Permanente to vaccinate up to 2,000 people per day.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

DISTRICT 20

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

Listen-Story Meeting

You're invited to join my Virtual Listen Story community meeting on Saturday, May 8, 9-10am. A reminder to my constituent email list will be sent out closer to the date. If you want to be added to the invite list, email sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and I'll send you the Zoom link.



Kaiser Permanente West O'ahu Medical Office to Open

I'll be participating in the blessing for the new Kaiser Permanente West O'ahu Medical Office at Kapolei opening on April 5. The brand-new, 40,000 square-foot facility will be three-times larger than the current West O'ahu facility with over 40 exam rooms. It will offer urgent care with extended hours on nights, weekends and holidays; women's health services; primary care for families; mental health services; imaging; and a full-service pharmacy. This is a state-of-the-art "Next Gen" facility, the first of its kind in Hawai'i, which will link our doctors and patients to some of the latest technology in a spacious,

soothing environment designed for healing.

New and Enhanced Services:

- Urgent Care Extended Hours – Nights, Weekends, and Holidays
- Women's health services
- General radiology, mammography, and ultrasound imaging

Featured Services:

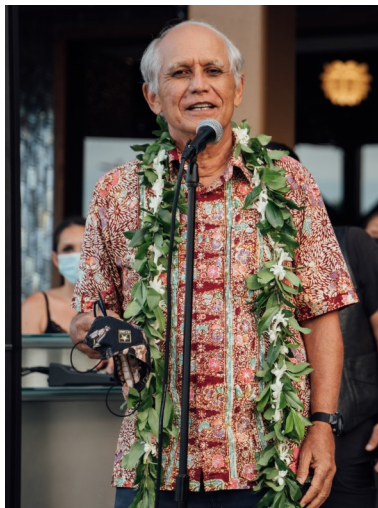
- Primary care for families, including adults and keiki
- Prevention and wellness programs
- Mental health services
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy

Mokulani (Kapolei Commercial Center) Coming Soon

James Campbell Company purchased the business/commercial lots between H-1 and Farrington Highway across from Wet N Wild in 2016. Their affiliate, Kapolei Property Development, has been working on Mokulani (Kapolei Commercial Center) and the project is now coming to fruition. Construction of a Shell gas station and Pau Hana Express convenience store continues, and an opening for these businesses is planned for this month. The construction of the state-of-the-art car wash—now branded as Car Wash 808—is now complete, and opened for business on January 28, 2021. Additionally, in December 2020, BMW/Mini held a small (COVID-restricted) blessing and groundbreaking for their new dealership and service center. Construction since December has been ongoing, with a grand opening of Kapolei's first auto dealership anticipated for fall 2021. New City Nissan is also planning its first West O'ahu dealership and service center on a 3.5 acre lot within Mokulani.



Sugarcane by Chai's Opens at Ka Makana Ali'i



Rep. Cedric Gates, who represents portions of the Wai'anae Coast, and I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature at the Soft Opening of Sugarcane by Chai's at Ka Makana Ali'i in Kapolei on March 26. Sugarcane is a contemporary restaurant featuring Pacific Regional Cuisine, creative signature cocktails, and a state-of-the-

art entertainment system to showcase nightly live music of all genres. Owner, Peter Maharaj, and President of Operations, Sean Tsai, have taken great care to assemble a superstar team to make Sugarcane the premier destination in West O'ahu for dining and entertainment, including internationally-renowned, award-winning Chef Chai Chaowasaree, Sugarcane's Executive Chef Rodhel Ibay, who was hand-picked by Chef Chai, notable Hawai'i Food & Wine Festival mixologist Kenny Lum, and Director of Operations Calvin Yao. Sugarcane serves unique, award-winning cuisine (including some tasty vegan items I sampled 🌱) created by Chef Chai and Chef Rodhel, inspired by locally-sourced ingredients from the land and sea. The 4,982-square-foot restaurant provides a relaxing and exciting destination for elegant cuisine and live entertainment, in a beautifully designed interior and exterior space. As one of my fave American icons, Mr. Fred Rogers, used to say, "Welcome to the neighborhood, Sugarcane by Chai's!"

City's New Rent & Utility Relief Program

The City is rolling out a new Rent & Utility Relief Program on April 5. They are working with community partners to develop the program with \$114 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds. This program can pay for rent and household utilities for up to 12 months. To qualify, you need to be an O'ahu resident, receive COVID income or have suffered job loss, and proof of late rent or utility bills. You'll need to also provide the following documents: government issued ID, rent agreement or bill, household tax document, recent pay stubs, and an unemployment insurance receipt. Landlords may apply on behalf of renters with their permission. There

are also household income limits. You can learn more about the program by visit here: [Rental and Utility Relief Program](#)

Change in Phone Numbers

There's a change coming to how we make phone calls. Starting October 24, 2021, all phone service providers will be implementing a mandatory 10-digit calling method. So even if you are calling people on O'ahu or the neighbor islands you'll need to include the "808" area code to make the call. This change is prompted by a decision by the Federal Elections Commission to use "988" as the new nationwide number for the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline. The "988" number will be active as of July 16, 2022.

Brennan's Bill Helps Those Who Have Seizures

I was contacted by my Senate colleague, Glenn Wakai, to put a sign on my office door with information on Seizure First Aid. He's helping his friend's 12-year son get "Brennan's Bill", SB 936, passed into law. This bill would require employers to provide employees access to seizure first aid information specified by the Department of Health. I voted in support of the bill when it unanimously passed the Senate on March 9. The bill continues to make progress as it moves in the House. The Epilepsy Foundation recommends the following on how to help someone having a seizure:

- ⇒ STAY with the person until they are awake and alert after the seizure
- ⇒ Keep the person SAFE.
- ⇒ Turn the person onto their SIDE if they are not awake and aware.

Call 911 for the following reasons:

- ⇒ Seizure lasts longer than 5 minutes
- ⇒ Person does not return to their usual state
- ⇒ Person is injured, pregnant, or sick
- ⇒ Repeated seizures
- ⇒ First time seizure
- ⇒ Difficulty breathing
- ⇒ Seizure occurs in water

The Epilepsy Foundation also recommends that you **DO NOT** restrain and **DO NOT** put any objects in their mouth. To learn more, visit [First Aid for Seizures Procedure](#).

HONORARY CERTIFICATES

Makakilo Resident Stan Jones Turns 90!



On March 20, I surprised an old friend, Stan Jones, at his 90th birthday celebration with an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate, along with some of our famous, homemade Gabbard Hawaiian Treasures Toffee. Heartfelt congrats to Stan for making it to 90! Here are a few highlights of Stan's impressive resume: Eagle Scout at age sixteen, Masters and Doctorate degrees, Certified Public Accountant, Certified Speaking Professional, and Real Estate Broker. He's worked for the City and State government, as well as private enterprise. Stan has had an impact on many students as a teacher, public speaker, and a professional presenter on a broad range of topics at locations all over the globe, including several speeches given while at sea! He's honorably given back to his country through Active Duty and Army Reserves service with the Illinois and California National Guard. He's an accomplished author. Stan has lived in the Makakilo/Kapolei area for 21 years and has 3 children, 7 grandchildren, and 9 great-grandchildren. Stan and his wife Karin met when she wanted to speak with the Honolulu County Genealogical Society while Stan was in charge of programming. Karin was a representative for Forever.com, a memory-keeping company. Stan invited Karin to lunch, which she thought was about business, however, Stan had other ideas in mind! Before getting married in 2019, Stan and Karin discovered that they were born within a one-hour drive from each other in Illinois. Stan is very engaged in Hawai'i politics, keeps up -to-date on current events, and has been a valuable participant at my community "Listen Story" monthly meetings for over fifteen years. Mahalo nui loa to Stan

for your contribution to the betterment of our community. Stan is one-of-a-kind and a true friend to the people of Hawai'i.

Pet Kokua Grand Opening

Senator Clarence Nishihara, who represents Pearl City and Waipahu, and I co-sponsored an Honorary Certificate from the Senate congratulating the Hawaiian Humane Society upon the opening of Pet Kokua at the Fil-Com Center on March 10. After a gazillion zoom meetings, it was cool attending in person. Hawaiian Humane has run a pet food bank on its Mō'ili'ili campus for the last decade. Late in 2019, its newly formed Pet Kokua outreach team reimaged the pet food bank program to remove barriers for clients and provide additional services. Then came the COVID pandemic and resulting economic fallout. Between March 2020 and February 2021, they distributed 50,000 pounds of pet food, 160 percent more than the previous year. They realized that for many clients or potential clients, distance was an obstacle to getting help. While they continue to work toward a permanent second campus in Ewa, this crisis made it clear that they needed to expand access to services to residents of Central and West O'ahu as soon as possible. The idea for Pet Kokua by Hawaiian Humane Society at the Filipino Community Center was born. The Pet Kokua program is a vital service in the prevention of owner surrender, animal cruelty, neglect and pet overpopulation. The mission of the Pet Kokua program is to keep pets and their people together and improve the quality of life of all animals by providing assistance to those who are in need.

