



Aloha e Friends,

I hope you and your ohana are safe and well. It was nice to see COVID restrictions finally being relaxed a bit and heading back to normal here in paradise. Unfortunately, with the surge from the Delta variant, coinciding with the July 4th holidays, it didn't last long. For the ninth day in a row on July 23, Hawai'i's new daily coronavirus case numbers hit triple digits. Hawai'i is currently at a 59.5% fully vaccinated rate.

As always, please contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [sen-gabbard@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](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@GabbardAloha](https://www.instagram.com/senmikegabbard), or Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>.

Best wishes to you and your 'ohana.

Mike



A Unique Special Session

Last month, we were informed that the Governor intended to veto numerous bills that had passed out of both the House and Senate. Due to Constitutional law, he had until June 21 to release his intent to veto list. Some of you may be wondering, "What in the world is an *intent* to veto list?" To answer that, let me give you some background on the overall picture. Each year, around 2,500 to 3,000 bills are introduced at the Hawai'i State Legislature, and 200-300 of them become law. To become law, a bill must get to the Governor's desk, and to get to the Governor's desk, it needs to pass both the Senate and the House. Once a bill gets to the Governor's desk, he has three options: 1). Sign the bill by July 6 and it becomes law and is given an act number, 2). Notify the Legislature by June 21 if he plans to veto the bill and deliver the veto by July 6, in which case the bill dies -- unless the legislature calls a special session and overrides his veto by a 2/3 vote in the Senate and the House. This notification is the intent to veto list, or 3). Do neither, in which case it becomes law.

On June 21, we learned that out of the 268 bills that ended up on his desk, the Governor intended to veto 28! Ultimately, he vetoed 26. So, on July 6, the Legislature went into a Special Session to address the bills that Governor Ige had vetoed. Out of the 26 bills that were vetoed, we overrode six of those bills and made amendments to three. Two of the amended bills just got enacted into law. In a word...Wow! This was a long extended session. I wanted to wait for the final outcome before sending out my July newsletter. So, here you go. This special session reminded me of how democracy plays such a critical role in our state and country. The last time the Legislature had a special session to amend a vetoed bill was in 1974! If you'd like more information on any of the bills, please visit the Capitol website at: capitol.hawaii.gov or Legislative Reference Bureau's (LRB) website at lrb.hawaii.gov.

COMMITTEE CHAIR

AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

DISTRICT 20

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

LISTEN STORY

My next Listen Story Community Meeting is August 28, 9-10am via Zoom.

If you'd like to attend, please email [sen-gabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and we'll send you the link



VETO OVERRIDE SESSION OVERVIEW

VETO OVERRIDE MEASURES

- HB53: Relating To State Bonds
- HB862: Relating To State Government
- SB263: Relating To Economic Development
- SB404: Relating To Electioneering Communication
- SB811: Relating to the Department of Education
- SB1387: Relating To Microchip Identification

AMENDED MEASURES

- HB54: Relating To State Budget
- HB1299: Relating To Non-General Funds
- SB589: Relating To The University of Hawai'i



Save the Sharks!



On June 8, HB 553, the companion bill to Sen. Gabbard's shark protection bill, was signed into law in Gov. Ige's Ceremonial Room. (Pictured L-R: Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Gov. David Ige, DNL Dir. Suzanne Case, Sen. Gabbard, Rep. David Tarnes, and Rep. Nicole Lowen.)

I'm stoked to announce (in case you don't follow me on social media), the passing of House Bill 553 Shark Protection Act! The Bill Signing took place in the Governor's office on June 8, 2021. Eleven years ago, the shark fin bill was first introduced by Sen. Clayton Hee, and would become a landmark law to prohibit the finning of sharks and the sale of shark fins and fin products—a cruel practice that drives the massive scale killing of these important apex predators. Unfortunately, that effort didn't extend to protecting whole sharks from commercial exploitation or intentional killing. I personally introduced this bill five times starting in 2017 but those versions didn't pass. Finally, this past session, Rep. Nicole Lowen and I were able to partner on the introduction of companion bills, House Bill 553 and Senate Bill 504. As co-chairs of the Environmental Legislative Caucus, we included the shark protection legislation this year in our Bill Package. HB 553 adds important protection to sharks, given that:

- Local reef shark populations have seen declines in their population by upwards of 90%.
- Globally 71% of shark populations have declined, with 3/4 of shark species facing potential extinction.

This legislation extends protections to what many native Hawaiian families consider to be sacred *mano* (sharks), and *aumakua* (family or personal gods), by prohibiting the intentional killing of sharks for sport or commercial purposes, or killing for their jaws, teeth and other parts. The bill will prohibit knowingly capturing or killing any shark within state marine waters with clear, necessary exemptions such as: Ensuring that fishers are not subject to penalties for the accidental catch and release of a shark, and that important shark behavior research continues. A special mahalo to Inga

Gibson of Pono Advocacy for her dedication in getting this bill passed! It was also very cool to see this legislation get an assist from actor Leonardo DiCaprio who sent out some supportive social media posts. 😊 It's time we take this next step to protect these animals who are critical to our oceans' health and resiliency, for generations to come.

Benchmarks for Locally Grown Food

Did you know the Hawai'i Department of Education spends about \$45 million a year on imported food for our keiki lunches? I was happy to see the Governor signed HB767 (Act 175) into law. This law goes a long way in ensuring schools pour some of that money into local food production and moves the needle forward in our efforts to support more locally grown food. Specifically, this bill moved the Hawai'i farm-to-school program from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Education and established a programmatic goal for the DOE that at least 30% of food served in public schools shall consist of locally sourced products by 2030. Mahalo, Gov. and to all my colleagues who supported this bill!

Makaha Mountain Farm Tour



On June 23, Sen. Mike and Carol Gabbard visited Makaha Mountain Farms at ARA in Kalaeloa.

My wife Carol and I were invited by Director Daimon Hudson, founder of **American Renaissance Academy (ARA)** to learn about the indoor vertical farming efforts taking place there, a few hundred yards from our home! It was exciting to discuss the potential for Hawai'i food security while observing the microgreens he had growing and hearing his plans for the future of Makaha Mountain Farms. Because the facility is in-

doors, they can grow fresh local produce without the use of any pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers. Makaha Mountain Farms has partnered with ARA to provide keiki with hands-on experiences in sustainable agriculture and the knowledge to grow indoors utilizing technological innovations. Very cool. Please visit makahamtnfarms.com to learn more.

Kokua Hawai'i Hale'iwa Farm Workday & Tour

Have you heard of an electric tractor?



On June 5, Sen. Gabbard visited Kokua Hawai'i Hale'iwa Farm on the North Shore.

On June 5, which just happened to be World Environment Day 2021, I was invited to visit and tour the Kōkua Learning Farm in Hale'iwa, North Shore. Jack Johnson, the musician, and co-founder with his wife, Kim, of the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation, launched the farm and community center in December 2019. The e-tractor was donated to Jack Johnson and the Kokua Hawai'i Foundation. Jack says Hawai'i's first solar-powered electric tractor makes it easier to be green.

Kapolei Chamber of Commerce Talk Story Session

On June 18, I was invited to provide an Ag & Environment Legislative overview to the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce. As Chair of the State Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee, I discussed bills that were introduced, deferred, and passed this past legislative session. In addition, I was invited to present to the Chamber's newly formed Committee on Green Businesses and Sustainability on July 9. Please contact Kiran Polk, Kapolei Chamber Executive Director, kiranpolk@gmail.com if you'd like more information, or want to become involved.

Blue Zones Project Kapolei-Ewa Certifications

In 2018, I, along with Councilmember Kym Pine as Co-Chairs of the **Blue Zones Project Kapolei-Ewa** Leadership Committee officially kicked off the project at the Kroc Center in Kapolei. The day was designed to introduce the community first-hand to what the Blue Zones Project is all about. For those who may not know, Blue Zones is a well-being improvement initiative, funded by HMSA (Hawai'i Medical Service Association), and inspired by the book, *The Blue Zones: Lessons for Living Longer from the People Who've Lived the Longest*, written by Dan Buettner. The book focused on the five places in the world – "Blue Zones" – where people live the longest, and are healthiest: (Ikaria, Greece; Loma Linda, California; Sardinia, Italy; Okinawa, Japan; and Nicoya, Costa Rica.) The book has now evolved into a global movement. The Project goal is to inspire people to live longer, more active lives with lower rates of chronic disease. The Project is dedicated to helping towns become better places to live, work and play. In the past three years, I'm impressed to see the number of wellness activities across schools, businesses and worksites on the west side, as well as those who were officially Blue Zones certified. A special AlohaCongrats to Island Pacific Academy (IPA), Barbers Point Elementary, Mauka Lani Elementary, Seagull School Kapolei, University of Phoenix – Kapolei Campus, James Campbell High School, 'Ilima at Leihano, Down to Earth Café, Queen's West O'ahu Medical Center, Kalapawai Café, Foodland Kapolei, and Villages of Kapolei for this notable achievement.



On June 18, Kiran Polk, Exec. Director for the Kapolei Chamber of Commerce, invited Sen. Gabbard to give a Legislative Wrap-Up.

79TH Annual Ceremony for the Battle of Midway and Rededication of the Naval Aviation Barbers Point Memorial



On June 6, Sen. Gabbard presented Honorary Certificates to the NASBP Memorial Restoration Committee. (Pictured L-R: Logistics Support - Senior Chief Dean Kalani Capelouto, (USN, Ret.); Finance Officer - Master Sergeant Mary Noland (USA, Active Duty); Vice Chair - Col. Arthur N. Tulak, Ed.D. (USA, Ret.); Committee Chair-Colonel Jason C. Seal, (USMC, Ret.); Vets Hawai'i Commander Donovan Lazarus; Sen. Gabbard.)

On June 6, community members, veterans, and elected officials gathered at the Naval Air Station at Barbers Point (NASBP) (now Kalaeloa) to commemorate the 79th Anniversary of The Battle of Midway. Did you know this battle was a major turning point which helped U.S. forces win World War II? I've lived in Kalaeloa the last 17 years, so it's mind-blowing to reflect on the historical significance of this event. The ceremony unfolded amidst the dramatic background of the official unveiling of the NASBP Memorial—reconstructed at Barbers Point in honor of The Battle of Midway. Very cool seeing it finally come to fruition! I was invited by AMVETS Commander Donovan Lazarus to recognize the Restoration Committee responsible for making this happen and to honor each of them with a certificate from the Senate, followed by a ribbon-cutting celebration of the restored memorial. AlohaCongrats and mahalo to all who participated in this memorable event!



Honorary Recognition 2021 ARA Grad: Kiana Sachi Tanizaki-Hudson

On June 29, 2021, I surprised American Renaissance Academy graduate, Kiana Sachi Tanizaki-Hudson, in the middle of her swim practice, with an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate. Kiana is following in the footsteps of a family of outstanding achievers. At ARA (a private school in my district), she excelled in many subjects (with a 4.229 GPA!) and extracurricular activities. Her favorite subjects were Anatomy, Chemistry (the easy ones, right?), and Performing Arts. Kiana also enjoyed giving back to her community: She provided meals and performed at the Women and Children's Homeless Shelter in Kaka'ako, volunteered for the Hawaiian fishpond cleanup days, helped out at the Annual Toys for Tots Drive, participated at food drives for westside families, and helped to organize and raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation in honor of her grandfather Kenneth Tanizaki.

Next year, she'll swim as an NCAA student athlete at Chapman University and is focused on the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris, France! Definitely someone to keep an eye on!

Upon graduation from Chapman University, Kiana hopes to attend medical school and residency where she will study orthopedic surgery and sports medicine.

The Green Amendment

On July 6, I was invited to represent Hawai'i during a special "Legislative Champion Spotlight Series" released on Green Amendments For The Generations social media platforms on July 13, in honor of "Green Amendment Day." Green Amendments (often called "environmental rights amendments") are part of two states' constitutions. Likening rights of religious expression and speech to those of clean air, water, and a stable climate, these amendments serve to emphasize environmental health and safety as being part of our basic civil liberties. After lawyer and environmentalist Maya van Rossum helped land a legal victory against fracking around the Delaware River watershed, the Green Amendment movement was born, capitalizing on this long-ignored piece of Pennsylvania's bill of rights.

Support for the constitutional right to a clean environment is gaining momentum in other states as well, as legislators are beginning to recognize the power in including such basic, but strong legal language in a state constitution's bill of rights. Pennsylvania and Montana are the only two states with enacted Green Amendments so far. As of today, 13 states have introduced Green Amendment language: Delaware, Washington, Oregon, New York, New Jersey, New Mexico, Maine, West Virginia, Kentucky, Hawai'i, Maryland, Vermont, Iowa. While my bill passed unanimously in the Senate, it stalled in the House. We'll try again next year. To watch my interview and learn more about this groundbreaking legislation, please visit: HiGreenAmendment.org.