



**Aloha e Friends,**

I hope you and your ‘ohana are well. With close to **65% of Hawai‘i now vaccinated**, hopefully we’ll start to see our numbers go down. I’ve included some COVID-19 resources here and Westside vaccination events, for your information. I’ve also included a brief survey where I’m asking for your input on environmental issues in Hawai‘i.

As always, please contact me at (808) 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](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@GabbardAloha](https://www.instagram.com/GabbardAloha), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard).

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Best wishes to you and your ‘ohana.



*Mike*

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

**AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

### DISTRICT 20

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

## August Listen-Story Meeting

In case you missed it, you can [view the recording of my Listen Story Community meeting on August 28 on my YouTube Channel](#), followed by a Q & A session with participants. Topics covered community updates on roads, construction, and new building developments across the district, including Kapolei, Makakilo, and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa, and Waipahu. Click here to see the PowerPoint [presentation](#).

Welcome to Senator Gabbard’s Virtual Listen Story!

August 28, 2021

“Hawaiian Lullaby” from Mike Gabbard’s CD “Stand as One” (2002)



## Two Decades Later, We’ll Never Forget

The 2,977 lives lost because of the unthinkable tragedy of September 11, 2001, will never be forgotten. The courage of those who risked their lives to save others is immeasurable.

The events of that day – a day that started off like any other – couldn’t have been imagined by any of us, and changed our lives forever... On the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this horrible day, let’s remember how quickly life can change... to count our blessings and always try to be kind and loving to everyone.

# COVID-19 UPDATES

## COVID-19 Resources

Here's some great resources on COVID-19:

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Hawai'i residents who need in-home vaccination may now call (808) 586-8332 or (833) 711-0645 for assistance. Learn more at [HawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccine](https://hawaiiCOVID19.com/vaccine).

Stay informed about the latest Testing and Quarantine information on [hawaiiCOVID19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine](https://hawaiiCOVID19.com/testing-isolation-quarantine) including guidance like: [requirements for cases and close contacts](#) and [when to return to work](#).

Review new [Guidance documents](#) including [COVID-19 Interim Return to Work Guidance](#) and [Home Isolation & Quarantine Guidance](#).

View updated [Travel Partner](#) information from CVS Health.

Keep up with the latest [Data & News](#)

[New DOH Reports Underscore Toll of Delta Variant](#)

[Hawai'i Surpasses 10,000 Active COVID-19 Cases](#)

[DOH Expands West O'ahu Testing & Vaccination Events](#)

## Safe Access O'ahu Vaccine Passport Program

Beginning Monday, Sept. 13, Mayor Blangiardi's [Safe Access O'ahu](#) Vaccine Passport Program will go into effect for the next 60 days. To enter their business, certain O'ahu establishments are required to have customers show proof of vaccination, OR a negative COVID test taken within the last 48 hours. Mayor Blangiardi announced the program amid an alarming surge in COVID cases in Hawai'i that's wreaking havoc on Hawai'i's people and our health care system.

**The list of establishments affected by the mayor's order are:**

- ⇒ Restaurants and bars (takeout is exempt)
- ⇒ Gyms and fitness facilities, including dance studios
- ⇒ Bowling alleys, arcades and billiards halls
- ⇒ Movie theaters
- ⇒ Museums
- ⇒ Indoor portions of botanical gardens, zoos, or other attractions

Also, on Sept. 9, Gov. Ige signed an executive order that requires contractors and visitors at state facilities and on state property to provide their vaccination or testing status prior to entry.

## Hawai'i SMART Health Card

Along with the passport mandate comes a new digital passport option that launched Sept. 10, where you can show a QR code as proof of vaccination, so you wouldn't need to carry around your paper card.

To get the digital pass, go to [Safe Travels Hawai'i](#)

Children under 12, who are ineligible for vaccines, are exempt from the requirements.



## Hawai'i's Hospitals Over-flowing

Triage tents have started popping up across the state. Hawai'i health leaders have teamed up with Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to bring in 550 medical staff from the mainland — mostly nurses, and mostly on the Big Island. On O'ahu, hospital staff have been working double and triple shifts. According to the president and CEO of the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i, Hilton Raethel, the most serious issue is the lack of ICU beds (224 ICU patients for 223 beds). About 100 of those patients have COVID-19.

## Unemployment Insurance

As of Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), and Mixed Earners Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) programs ended. Only the regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) program is available. If you have PEUC, PUA, or FPUC claims that have been submitted prior to Sept. 4, and remain pending, your claims can still be processed. You may want to sign up for an appointment with the PUA or adjudication divisions to speak with someone to get your pending claim processed. If you have a problem with your claim, you can schedule a 30-minute phone appointment to speak with someone.

To sign up, go to [labor.hawaii.gov/ui/appointments](https://labor.hawaii.gov/ui/appointments).

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

## Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents

As Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee, I've been invited to share my environmental priorities for the 2022 session, which begins in mid-January, at an upcoming free online event on September 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m., called "Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents." Hawai'i environmental organizations are sponsoring the event, which also features my counterparts in the House, Rep. Nicole Lowen, Chair of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection; and Rep. David Tarnas, Chair of the House Committee on Water and Land. You can register in advance at: [bit.ly/HECA\\_Gabbard](https://bit.ly/HECA_Gabbard).

According to Clara Ontal of the Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, and chair of the event planning committee, the event seeks to build collaborative relationships that will be effective in passing legislation to benefit the environment and the people of Hawai'i. The environmental organizations sponsoring this event include Sierra Club Hawai'i and Sierra Club Big Island, Environmental Justice Task Force of Faith Action for Community Equity, The Nature Conservancy, Blue Planet Foundation, Surfrider Foundation O'ahu, Citizens Climate Lobby-Hawaii Chapters, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, 350.org Hawaii, Center for Biological Diversity, Climate Protectors Hawai'i, Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition, Our Revolution Hawai'i, Pono Hawai'i Initiative, Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition, Kaua'i Climate Action Coalition, and Hawai'i Electric Vehicle Association.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

As our January legislative session gets closer, I'm in the process of deciding what my environmental priorities will be for the 2022 session. I would like your input. Please choose your top priority out of the list below, and click on [the survey here](#) to fill in your response. (You'll need to login to your google account to access.) To learn more about each bill, click the bill number, which is hyperlinked below. This will take you to a Measure Status page, which gives the description of the bill, who introduced it, what occurred during session 2021 as the bill made its way through the legislature, links to testimony for the bill, and the committee report that was filed for the bill. The status page is a great way to learn more about bills!

- **Aquarium Fishing ([SB344](#))** This bill would prohibit com-

mercial aquarium fishing.

- **Cesspool Inspection and Repair ([SB 369](#))** This bill would minimize polluted runoff created by failing wastewater systems (septic systems, aerobic treatment units, and cesspools) by establishing a program to oversee their inspection and repair.
- **Green Amendment ([SB 502](#))** This bill proposes an amendment to Article I of the Hawai'i State Constitution to guarantee all individuals the right to have a clean and healthy environment.
- **Green Fee ([SB 666](#))** This bill would establish a green fee surcharge of \$20 on transient accommodations to fund workforce programs and services that promote certain environmental goals.
- **Sunscreens ([SB132](#))** This bill would ban the sale in Hawai'i of sunscreens containing the toxic chemicals octocrylene or avobenzone, which are harmful to humans and the environment.

## Food Production Stakeholders Funding Opportunity

An upcoming grant opportunity is available to help farmworkers and meatpacking workers with pandemic-related health and safety costs. It's part of the USDA's Build Back Better effort to defray costs for personal, family, or living expenses related to COVID-19, such as costs for personal protective equipment, dependent care, and expenses associated with quarantines and testing. The Request for Application (RFA) will be announced in early Fall and will be open for 60 days. Additional information and technical assistance will be provided.

## Hawai'i to Receive \$46,000

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced on Sept. 9, it's investing \$129 million in 48 states, and Puerto Rico, to build or help improve renewable energy infrastructures. Hawai'i will receive \$46,552 to help agricultural producers and rural businesses lower their energy costs. Some of Hawai'i businesses receiving the funds include:

- ♦ **Maui Tea Ventures, LLC**, \$6,635 will be used to replace non-functioning batteries in an off-grid photovoltaic system with new batteries and components.

# SEPTEMBER EVENTS

## Neighborhood Board Meetings

The next scheduled meeting for the [Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board](#) will be held on Wednesday, September 29, 2021. You can logon remotely and it's open to all.

## Vaccine Events in and Around Kapolei

Date	Location	Time	Address	Vaccine Type
9/12	Kapolei Commons	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	4450 Kapolei Pkwy	Pfizer, J&J
9/13	UH West Oahu	7:30 AM - 3:00 PM	91-1001 Farrington Hwy	Pfizer
9/15	Island Pacific Academy	8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	909 Haumea St	Pfizer, J&J
9/19	Kapolei Commons	10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	4450 Kapolei Pkwy	Pfizer, J&J
9/24	Campbell Industrial Park - Hawaiian Electric	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Kahe Power Plant, 92-200 Farrington Hwy	Pfizer, Moderna, J&J
9/28	Campbell Industrial Park - Hawaiian Electric (2nd Dose)	8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Kahe Power Plant, 92-200 Farrington Hwy	Pfizer, Moderna, J&J

## National Preparedness Month

Did you know September is "National Preparedness Month"? The Hawai'i Department of Health (HDOH) has joined federal, state, and local agencies across the U.S. to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies. People are encouraged to create a plan with family and friends and to build an emergency kit. This is especially important during this pandemic when things we often take for granted may not be available. For information on hurricane preparedness tips, visit: <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/weather/hurricane/>.

For information on September National Preparedness Month, emergency preparedness in Hawai'i, and resources available to the public, please visit the websites below:

- ⇒ [Family preparedness checklist](#)
- ⇒ [Guidance on family preparedness](#)
- ⇒ [National Preparedness Month at ready.gov](#)
- ⇒ [HDOH Office of Public Health Preparedness](#)



HAWAII STATE  
DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH



*(Hawai'i to Receive \$46,000, cont. from p.3)*

- ◆ **Fleming & Associates**, \$19,620 will be used to help purchase and install a 14.76 DC Kilowatt photovoltaic energy system for an architectural firm.
- ◆ **Puna Flower Power**, \$9,955 will be used to purchase and install a 11.7kW solar energy system.
- ◆ **Sugar Hill**, \$10,342 will be used to purchase and install a 7.6kW solar energy system to power an off-grid farm cold storage unit the business will use for meat cutting, wrapping and product storage.

USDA is financing these projects through the [Rural Energy for America Program \(REAP\)](#), which provides funding to agricultural producers and rural small businesses for renewable energy systems or to make energy efficiency improvements. Visit the website to learn more.