

## *Aloha e Friends,*

I hope you and your 'ohana are well. With 70% of O'ahu now vaccinated, we're seeing our numbers of infections starting to go down and the Governor and Mayor's COVID-19 restrictions are beginning to loosen. To learn more about the situation in Hawai'i visit the Hawai'i Department of Health's LIVE Dashboard: [COVID-19 Dashboard](#). In my October Newsletter you'll find information on local COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites. I've also included some District 20 and Ag & Environment updates.

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](#), Instagram [@GabbardAloha](#), and Facebook at [@senmikegabbard](#).

Best wishes to you and your 'ohana. *Mike*



## Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents

As Chair of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee, I was invited to share my environmental priorities for the 2022 session (which begins January 19<sup>th</sup>), at an online event September 18, called "Hawai'i Environmental Change Agents." Seventeen Hawai'i environmental organizations sponsored the event, which also featured 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 view the recording here: [Hawaii Environmental Change Agents 9-18-2021 - YouTube](#). It was amazing to be able to all get together and voice our concerns, *prior* to the legislative session. When asked to provide my top three priorities, I asked for input from the environmental community and constituents...There were certain issues that came up more often than others, so these frequently raised issues helped me to formulate my top three priorities. Here they are:

### **Green Amendment [SB 502](#)**

My first priority is the Green Amendment, SB 502, which passed unanimously in the Senate last session, but died in the House. Green Amendments are provisions added to the Bill of Rights section of a constitution that recognize and protect the rights of all people, including future generations – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or income – to pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and healthy environments. SB 502 would amend our state constitution to protect those rights and could be used in cases where those rights are being threatened. The State and counties should protect, and not infringe upon, those rights. Support for the constitutional right to a clean environment is gaining momentum in other states, as other Legislatures are beginning to recognize the power in including such basic, but strong legal language in a state constitution's bill of rights. Hawai'i is one of 13 states considering a Green Amendment. Two other states, Pennsylvania and Montana, have already adopted Green Amendments. If it passes next year, with your kokua, the ballot question would appear in the 2022 election cycle.

*(Environmental Priorities, continued p. 3)*

## COMMITTEE CHAIR

**AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

### MEMBER

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

### DISTRICT 20

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

# FREE COVID TESTING CLINICS & COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Free Vaccination and Testing Clinics

Kapolei Chamber, in partnership with Ko Olina Resort and Residence INN by Marriott - Kapolei is hosting a series of free vaccination clinics. [Click here for details.](#) FREE COVID-19 Testing and Vaccination events will also be held at the

**KAPOLEI  
FREE COVID-19 TESTING  
AND VACCINE POP-UP**

**WHERE:**  
Dept of Hawaiian Homelands  
Hale Pono'i Building  
91-8420 Kapolei Pkwy, Kapolei

**WHEN:**  
Saturday, October 2 & 30  
2:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Sat, Oct 9 & 16 • Nov 6 & 13  
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

**VACCINE TYPES:**  
• Pfizer for 12+  
• Moderna for 18+  
• J&J for 18+

**REMEMBER TO BRING:**  
• Photo ID  
• Insurance card (if you have, not required)

**WALK IN OR PRE-REGISTER:**  
<https://forms.gle/cc5TU0G1H2hKmcK0e>

Department of Hawaiian Homelands Hale Pono'i Building beginning this Saturday, Oct. 2, from 2:30 pm-6:30 pm and every Saturday until November 13. The event is open to the public and pre-registration is

recommended but not required. Bring your I.D. and your insurance if you have. If you are under 18 bring a parent and complete a Consent Form. If you have any questions, call 691-2222 or visit [covid.queens.org/vaccine](https://covid.queens.org/vaccine).

The **Honolulu Fire Department** is providing free COVID-19 tests in the parking lot of the Consolidated Theatres Kapolei, at 890 Kamokila Boulevard, from 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. every Tuesday until October 26. Appointments are not required. Participants will be given the PCR or polymerase chain reaction test for COVID-19, which produces results in approximately 2-3 days. COVID-19 - Welcome (color.com). There's also free drive-thru testing in the parking lot area of the Ewa Mahiko District Park in Ewa Beach, 10 a.m.- 2 p.m. every Thursday until Oct. 28.

**Kaiser Permanente** is offering drive-thru COVID-19 tests at the West O'ahu Medical Office at 410 Kamokila Boulevard, Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. To make an appointment, go to [kp.org](https://kp.org) or the Kaiser Permanente mobile app. Use the Kealakapu Street entrance and bring member ID card, a photo ID, and wear a mask. Kaiser is also opening a new monoclonal antibody infusion site at West O'ahu, by appointment only Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m.- 5 p.m. this week. With the arrival of a FEMA team, hours will expand to seven days a week, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Patients must have a referral from their primary care physician or specialist. Kaiser Permanente patients are also receiving monoclonal antibody treatments at Moanalua Medical Center and Maui Lani Medical office in Kahului.

## "Dial" 808!

Have you heard the news? Beginning October 24, we're required to include the 808 area code when dialing Hawai'i

phone numbers, no matter which island you're on. This is related to a new three digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, in response to a Federal Communications Commission order. Here's a link to additional information on Hawaiian Telcom's website you can review if you're interested in learning more: [Hawaiian-tel.com Residential Support Dial-808](https://hawaiian-tel.com/ResidentialSupportDial-808)

## Imagine a Day Without Water

On October 21, the Hawai'i Board of Water Supply is hosting a nationwide campaign focusing on fresh water and infrastructure – check out their [Facebook page](#) and [Board of Water Supply webpage](#). Join at noon for a live and interactive event with the directors from three city agencies discussing the importance of water and the need to invest in water infrastructure. If you'd like to submit a question to be answered during the forum, please email [bws](mailto:bws). You'll also have the chance to submit a question in the comment box once the forum is live and streaming. [Win prizes on their Instagram Contest](#), such as a 35-gallon rain barrel, reusable totes, sink drain, shower timers, sunglasses, agency logo shirts (sizes vary), water jugs, and more... There'll be a GRAND prize, 2nd Place, and 3rd place winner!



Imagine a Day Without Water  
October 21, 2021

## COMMUNITY UPDATES

The next scheduled neighborhood board meetings can be found here. You can log on remotely and they're open to all. You can also view minutes and video from past meetings.

### Neighborhood Board Meetings

[Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34](#) - Wednesday, October 27, 2021

[Ewa Neighborhood Board No. 23](#) - Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

[Waipahu Neighborhood Board No. 22](#) - Thursday, October 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. tentatively at the Fil-Com Center until further notice.

# LEGISLATIVE NEWS

*(Environmental Priorities, continued from, p. 1)*

## Visitor Green Fees [SB666](#)

Our beaches, reefs, ocean, forests, parks, and other natural resources are part of what makes Hawai'i such a special place. These natural resources provide billions of dollars of value to the state's economy and are a vital piece of our tourism industry helping to sustain the well-being of our communities.

But Hawai'i's natural resources are being "loved to death" by too many visitors and will face new challenges with climate change. So, another big priority for me in 2022 is the visitor green fees bill, and I'm not talking about raising golf green fees... SB 666, which passed the Senate, but died in the House last session, established a green fee surcharge on transient accommodations for the purposes of funding workforce programs and services that promote certain environmental goals.

The increased demand on our natural resources requires innovative funding sources, focused on reversing the decline in our ecosystems and the associated risks for our visitor industry and resident community. As a result, there's growing interests and support in the belief that visitors can and should contribute a green fee surcharge to help preserve our natural resources. This visitor green fee campaign could provide ways to enhance job opportunities in terms of creating thousands of green jobs and elevating the overall visitor experience as well.

This truly is a no-brainer. We should all pay our fair share in protection of our island's beauty and bounty.

## Sunscreens [SB132](#)

The third priority I'd like to share is related to sunscreens. The main factor contributing to the decline of our coral reefs is localized pollution, such as sewage, pesticide run-off, and yes, chemical sunscreens.

In 2018, I'm proud to say, Hawai'i passed the landmark first-in-the-world ban on the sale of sunscreens containing two chemicals oxybenzone and octinoxate that are harmful to corals, other marine species, and humans. Since that time, scientists from around the world have shown that two other sunscreen chemicals, octocrylene and avobenzone, are also harmful to marine and human life. They are absorbed into our bodies, may disrupt our hormones, and may cause cancers.

In order to protect human health and our precious coral reefs, I intend to reintroduce SB132, which bans the sale in Hawai'i of sunscreens containing octocrylene or avobenzone, without a prescription issued by a licensed healthcare provider. Last session SB 132 passed the Senate, but died in the House.

Finding and aligning with solutions that are best for our environment, our communities, our country, and our planet will take focus. It will take desire. It will take determination, and most of all, it will take "laulima" and aloha--many hands, minds and hearts working together.

### Senator Mike Gabbard's Environmental Priorities

- ◆ **Green Amendment....** Proposes an amendment to Article 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution to protect the rights of all people, including future generations – regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or income – to pure water, clean air, a stable climate, and a healthy environment. **(SB 502)**
- ◆ **Visitor Green Fee...** Establishes a visitor green fee surcharge for each guest of a transient accommodation to help create green jobs to protect ecosystems which are vital to the State's visitor industry and the resident community's culture identity. **(SB 666)**
- ◆ **Sunscreens...** US National Park Service estimates more than 6,000 tons of sunscreen end up in Hawaiian waters every year. DLNR reports that 55 gallons of sunscreen go into Maui nearshore waters daily. While the passage of Act 104 in 2018, banning the sale sunscreens containing oxybenzone and octinoxate, two dangerous chemicals harmful to marine and human health, was a good first step, more legislation needs to be passed to protect our island paradise. **(SB 132)**



# INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NON-VIOLENCE AND MAHATMA GANDHI DAY CELEBRATION

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, also known as "Mahatma", was born on October 2, 1869. He became the leader of Indian nationalism in British-ruled India and led India to independence through the pioneering use of nonviolent civil disobedience and passive resistance, inspiring various political leaders and civil rights movements across the world to the present day.

Gandhi is commemorated annually on October 2 with a national holiday in India and with the International Day of Non-Violence worldwide, established by the United Nations General Assembly on June 15, 2007.

In Hawai'i, the GANDHI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE was founded by Raj Kumar, Ph.D., with a mission to provide information, consultation, education, and training to resolve conflict in a non-violent manner. An initial effort to promote public awareness was a request to the Legislature of the State of Hawai'i to commemorate the inspiration, tolerance, and enduring legacy of Mohandas Gandhi on the date of his birth.

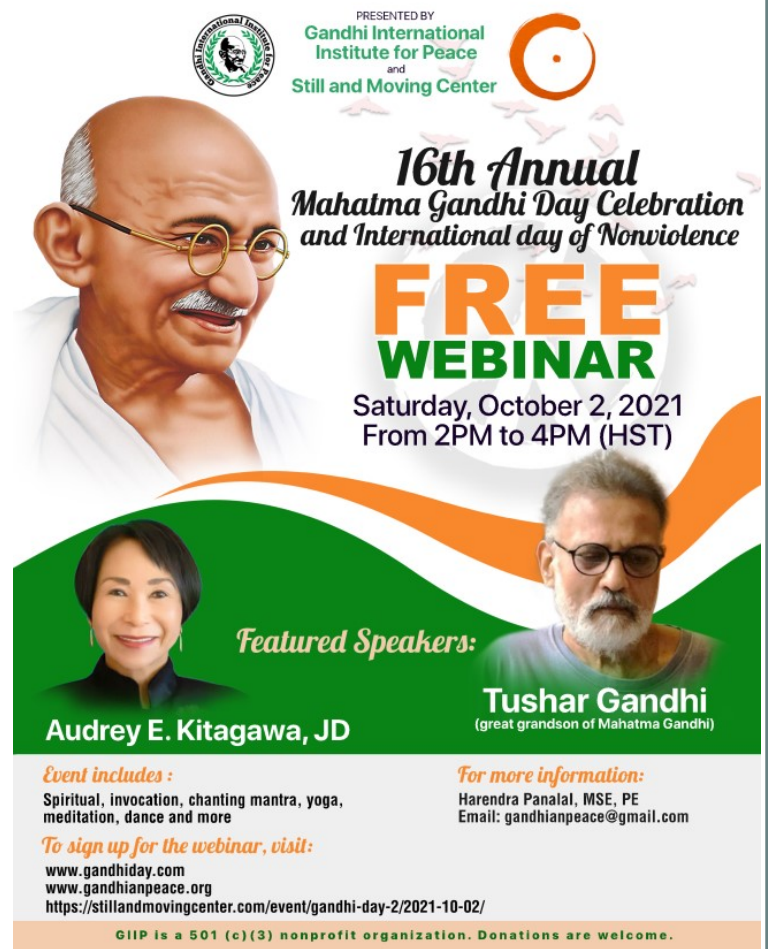
During the Regular Session of 2015, the 28th Legislature of the State of Hawai'i unanimously adopted Senate Bill 332 proposing to designate October 2 of each year as "Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi Day" as a day of recognition and observance, (not a state holiday.) On April 9, 2015, Governor David Y. Ige signed the bill into law as Act 5 (2015) - making Hawai'i the first state in the Union to so honor Gandhi.

I, along with Senator Brian Taniguchi, are honoring this occasion as we've done every year for the past seven years, with an Certificate from the State Senate. We congratulate Dr. Raj Kumar, who founded the Gandhi International Institute for Peace with a mission to provide information, consultation, education, and training to resolve conflict in a non-violent manner, and who was instrumental in the establishment of a culture of peace throughout the world.

The Hawai'i State Legislature joins in the celebration of the 152nd anniversary of the birth of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and extends its Aloha and best wishes for continued success and achievement by the GANDHI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR PEACE in the fulfillment of its mission consistent with honoring the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi Center.

October 2, 2021 marks the 152nd birthday of Mohandas Gandhi, the 16th annual observation of the International Day of Non-Violence, and the 7th celebration of Mahatma Gandhi Day in Hawai'i. The program is being co-hosted with Still and Moving Center. The theme of the 2021 celebration event is "The human voice can never reach the distance that is covered by the still small voice of conscience." – Mahatma Gandhi.

[You can participate in the event by clicking here.](#)



PRESENTED BY  
Gandhi International  
Institute for Peace  
and  
Still and Moving Center

**16th Annual  
Mahatma Gandhi Day Celebration  
and International day of Nonviolence**

**FREE  
WEBINAR**

Saturday, October 2, 2021  
From 2PM to 4PM (HST)

**Featured Speakers:**

**Audrey E. Kitagawa, JD**

**Tushar Gandhi**  
(great grandson of Mahatma Gandhi)

**Event includes :**  
Spiritual, invocation, chanting mantra, yoga, meditation, dance and more

**For more information:**  
Harendra Panalal, MSE, PE  
Email: [gandhianpeace@gmail.com](mailto:gandhianpeace@gmail.com)

**To sign up for the webinar, visit:**  
[www.gandhiday.com](http://www.gandhiday.com)  
[www.gandhianpeace.org](http://www.gandhianpeace.org)  
<https://stillandmovingcenter.com/event/gandhi-day-2/2021-10-02/>

GIIP is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are welcome.