



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

September 23, 2011

To the Participants of the Infrastructure and Transportation Townhall Meeting,

I wanted to express my heartfelt Mahalo to you all for participating in the Infrastructure and Transportation Townhall Meeting that I hosted on September 22 at Kea'au Elementary. I realize your time is precious, and I am grateful that you were able to take part in the forum with the State Department of Transportation (DOT), the Hawai'i County Department of Public Works, and legislators covering the projects that affect our community.

I am also appreciative of the State and the County officials who gave of their time to update our community on current and future projects. In line with the Governor's vision, Director Glenn Okimoto and key senior staff are making an effort to reach out to the public and increase transparency in to our State Departments.

I do share in the frustrations expressed by participants at the forum on September 22, particularly in regards to the projects revolving around Highway 130. This is a necessary project that addresses a problem that has been plaguing the Puna community for years. With one of the highest growth rates within the State of Hawai'i, the Puna community is poised to become one of the largest districts on the Big Island and infrastructure and transportation upgrades need to increase in parallel with this high rate of growth.

I want to assure you that I will do everything within my power to facilitate all aspects of the projects surrounding Highway 130. This is a top priority for me and I will be working closely with DOT officials ensuring that tangible progress is being made and that the shovels are in the ground as soon as possible.

I welcome any enquiries you may have on this or other projects in our community, and again, I thank you for your active participation in the civic process.

Hau'oli Ka Mana'o,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gilbert Kahele". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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