

*Aloha e Friends,*

We are now in the final stretch of our legislative session! You can visit [capitol.hawaii.gov](http://capitol.hawaii.gov) to track bills, or contact my office if you'd like to give your input on certain measures.

As always, you can 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 Instagram [@GabbardAloha](https://www.instagram.com/GabbardAloha), [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GabbardAloha), [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GabbardAloha), and Twitter [@GabbardAloha](https://twitter.com/GabbardAloha).

**COMMITTEE  
CHAIR**

**AGRICULTURE &  
ENVIRONMENT**

**MEMBER**

- ◆ Judiciary
- ◆ Government Operations

**DISTRICT 21**

Kapolei,  
Makakilo,  
Kalaehoa,  
and portions of:  
Fernandez  
Village,  
Ewa

## DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

### Listen Story Community Meeting

On Saturday, May 20, 9-10am I'll be hosting my "Listen Story" Community Meeting at the [Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge](#). Turn right when you enter, and you'll see our meeting sign at the front when you park! The meeting is a hybrid, so people can attend either in-person at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge, or via Zoom.

I'll be giving a **Legislative wrap-up of our 2023 session**, with a community update after and time for Q & A. Please send me an email at [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) to RSVP or for the link to join via Zoom.

### 14th Annual Art at the Capitol

Please join me in my office, Room 201, on **Friday, April 14, 4:30pm-7pm** for [Art at the Capitol](#)...a great opportunity to connect with your community and view all the unique art pieces that legislators feature in their offices!

#### 2023 Art at the Capitol Program

- ◆ Invocation by Hawai'i State Poet Laureate Brandy Nālani McDougall
- ◆ Self-guided tours
- ◆ Short films from the Hawai'i International Film Festival in the Senate Gallery
- ◆ H-3 protest footage from Hawai'i Triennial 2022
- ◆ Live performances by Kamakawiwo'ole Osorio Band, Ballet Hawai'i
- ◆ Performances by Honolulu Theatre for Youth in the Auditorium
- ◆ Panel discussion from [Hawai'i Contemporary](#) on "Art and Activism"

*Presented by the Hawai'i State Foundation on Culture and the Arts*



Sen. Gabbard wearing a lei made from marine debris on April 4, Ocean Awareness Day at the Capitol.

# DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

## UH WEST O'AHU NEWS

*"UH West O'ahu prepares 21st Century leaders – career creators – through integrated, transdisciplinary programs where learners discover, innovate, and engage diverse communities to create a vibrant and just world!"*

[Ka Puna O Kalo'i](#) is UH West O'ahu's newsletter which promotes engaging news, events, and more for the University, and showcases the many accomplishments of UH West O'ahu students, faculty, alumni, and programs. This news site is managed by the UH West O'ahu [Communications Department](#); you can sign up for their monthly highlights by clicking this link: [subscribe now!](#)

## Pilina Kanaloa: Ocean Awareness & Action Day at the Capitol

[Hawaii Environmental Change Agents' \(HECA's\)](#) Oceans Task Force hosted an informative and interactive Oceans Day event in the Capitol Rotunda on April 4. In support, many staff and legislators could be found dressed in [blue!](#) HECA's mission is to raise the environmental community's effectiveness by building coalitions to support legislation that addresses climate change and other environmental issues. The coalitions are organized as task forces under HECA; the [Oceans Task Force](#) advocates for legislation prohibiting sunscreens with harmful ingredients to reefs, legislation that prohibits the gathering of aquarium fish from Hawaii's waters, and legislation that accelerates the conversion of Hawaii's 88,000 cesspools, which are polluting groundwater and surface waters. Additional task forces include the [Climate Future Forum](#), the [Carbon Sequestration Task Force](#), and the [Carbon Cashback Task Force](#).

I was honored to recognize 30 organizations during our Senate floor session; these hardworking public agencies and non-profit organizations work tirelessly to raise awareness about our ocean! You can watch the April 4 floor session [here](#). Following the Ocean Day activities in the Capitol Rotunda, legislators were invited to give brief remarks in support of Ocean awareness. I gave brief remarks, along with Sen. President Kouchi, Sen. Inouye, and Reps. Lowen and Tarnas.



Sen. Gabbard on April 4, 2023 at Ocean Awareness Day at the Capitol, with Sen. Angus McKelvey and Inga Gibson, Policy Director, Pono Advocacy LLC.

## Congressional Art Competition 2023

Calling all budding young artists! Rep. Jill Tokuda (HI-02) announced on March 31 that her office is accepting submissions for the [2023 Congressional Art Competition](#) sponsored by the U.S. House of Representatives. The Artistic Discovery Contest is open to all high school students in Hawai'i's Second Congressional District.

Finalists will be selected from each county in the Second Congressional District and will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol in the Cannon tunnel. Members of Congress use this tunnel every day, as well as tens of thousands of visitors from across the country and world! The finalist's artwork will also be featured on the U.S. House of Representative's Congressional Art Competition [webpage](#), and on Congresswoman Tokuda's [website](#) and social media pages.

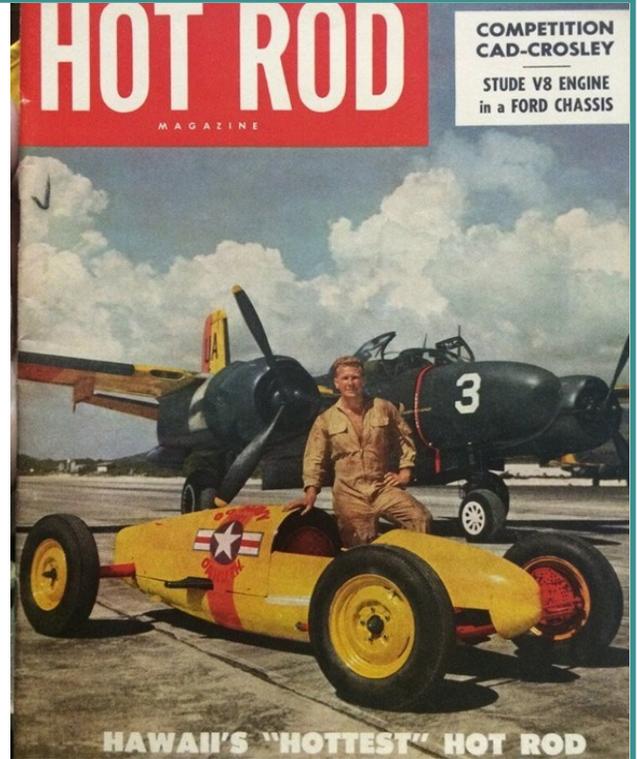
Students should visit Rep. Tokuda's website: [bit.ly/tokudaartcontest](https://bit.ly/tokudaartcontest) to learn more and to make a submission. **Submissions are due by 5:00pm on Wednesday, April 26.** To view Hawai'i winners of 2022, [click here!](#)

# DISTRICT 21 COMMUNITY UPDATES

## 70th Year Anniversary of Kalaeloa Barbers Point Naval Air Station Stationed Aviator: Lieutenant Harvey William Haller

As a longtime resident of Kalaeloa, I was fascinated to learn about the history of Lieutenant Harvey William Haller, world land speed record holder and military pioneer of sports car racing. While stationed at Barbers Point Naval Air Station, Lt. Harvey William Haller embraced the Hawai'i racing community, bringing national attention to "Hawai'i's Hottest Hot Rod" in Hot Rod Magazine's, April 1953 issue that featured Kalaeloa, O'ahu.

Lt. Harvey Haller was a true innovator, building his VU-1 race car and training on the base runways; he went on to break the 200mph sound barrier in September 1953 at the Bonneville Salt Flats time trials in Utah, hitting a world record 209.480 MPH, and getting featured in Time Life Magazine! I was happy to sign on to an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate, commemorating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Barbers Point Naval Air Station (BPNAS) Aviator Lieutenant Harvey William Haller.



Lieutenant Harvey William Haller, world land speed record holder, military pioneer of sports car racing, and pilot, stationed at Barber's Point Naval Air Station, Hawaii.



Pictured here at the April 1, 2023 Dream House ground breaking: (L-R) Sen. Mike Gabbard, Mayor Rick Blangiardi, Christine Camp – President & CEO of Avalon Group, Councilmember Andria Tupola, Rep. Diamond Garcia, and Jacob Noh, Chair of the Non-Profit Board, DreamHouse.

## Dream House Ground Breaking

Exciting news! On April 1, [Dream House Center](#) held their ground breaking ceremony for the site of their new high school, which will be located at the southeast end of the corner of Palailai Mall and Kama'aha Ave. Representative Diamond Garcia and I were honored to present a joint Honorary Certificate from the 32nd Legislature to congratulate Dreamhouse Center on their Groundbreaking Ceremony in Kapolei.

## CIP release: Barbers Point Elementary School

Barbers Point Elementary School received \$600,000 in Capital Improvements Program (CIP) funding to finance design and construction for a new restroom or restrooms to service the school cafeteria.

## Online Survey for Non-Fuel Re-Purposing of Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility

The U.S. Navy would like to invite you to participate in an online survey to get your thoughts on potential non-fuel repurposing ideas for the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (RHBFSS) after it's defueled and closed.

Visit [www.redhillrepurposing.com](http://www.redhillrepurposing.com) to complete the survey and to learn more about the effort to solicit public opinion on the non-fuel repurposing of RHBFSS! The deadline is May 31, 2023, and it is available to everyone on Oahu. Responses to the survey are confidential and anonymous, and no personal information will be included with the results.

# 2023 LEGISLATION

## Legislative Update

In my 7th year as Chair of the AEN Committee, I've heard numerous bills relating to issues involving climate change mitigation, environmental protection, sustainable agriculture, support for local farmers, and implementing visitor green fees. These are just some of the bills moving forward.

Unfortunately, one of my priority bills, Sustainable Food Systems (SB420) didn't receive a hearing in the House Finance Committee (FIN); however, I'm happy to say, the House companion bill (HB308) is still alive. What is a Sustainable Food System you may ask? Well to put it simply, a sustainable food system is one in which producers, retailers, community members, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies partner to create a vibrant and resilient local food economy that enhances and sustains the environmental, economic, and social health of the community.

We keep talking about the fact that we import 85-90% of our food at a cost of \$3B every year... ***it's time to actually do something about it.*** That's what this bill does... it creates a statewide plan to establish a working group within the Department of Agriculture. I've been working closely with Dr. Albie Miles, Assistant Professor of Sustainable Community Food Systems at UHWO on the bill details. Last year, it died, but I'm optimistic we have a good chance of passing it this year.

As we head into the home stretch – "Conference Committee" – the following AEN bills which I introduced, have passed 3rd Reading. The next two weeks will determine which bills live or die as the Senate and House hash out their differences to come to an agreement on the final form of the bill.

## AEN BILLS THAT HAVE PASSED THIRD READING

### **Carbon Sequestration.**

This bill appropriates funds for the Hawai'i carbon smart land management assistance pilot program. [SB419](#)

### **Environmental Advisory Council.**

This bill makes a housekeeping amendment to section 341-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes. The EAC serves as a liaison between the Office of Planning and Sustainable Development and the general public. (4/10/23 Enrolled to Governor.) [SB422](#)

### **Hawaii Farm To Food Bank Program.**

This bill establishes the Hawai'i Farm to Food Bank Program and Hawai'i food assistance program special fund to alleviate food shortages in the State. [SB430](#)

### **PFAS.**

This bill prohibits the manufacture, sale, offer for sale, distribution for sale, and distribution for use of any food packaging, food service ware, cosmetic, or personal care product that contains intentionally added perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), with certain exceptions. [SB504](#)

### **Hemp Labeling.**

This bill requires that the statement used for labeling or advertising hemp products identify the percentage of Hawai'i-grown and Hawai'i-processed hemp and hemp of other origins contained in hemp products. Allows the use of "All Hawaiian"

for hemp products in which one hundred per cent of the hemp is grown and processed in the State. [SB516](#)

### **Commercial Hemp Processing.**

This bill requires persons applying to register as hemp processors to document that the indoor facility and hemp processing operation doesn't include heat or volatile compounds or gases under pressure. [SB637](#)

### **Two-lined Spittlebug.**

This bill appropriates funds to the Department Of Agriculture to mitigate and control infestations of the two-lined spittlebug, undertake recovery efforts for lands damaged by the two-lined spittlebug, and establish a five-year pilot program to mitigate and control the significant increase in the population of feral chickens and pigs throughout the State. [SB652](#)

### **Hemp Production.**

This bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture to align state hemp production administrative rules with federal exemptions for fiber, fuel, and seed grain hemp crops. [SB655](#)

### **Hawai'i Ant Lab.**

This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State. [SB1552](#)