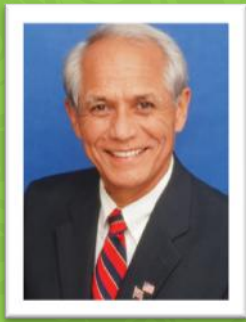


# Senator Mike Gabbard



September 2009



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*Aloha Friends!*

*I hope you and your families are doing well. School is back in session and summer vacations are coming to an end.*

*I'm starting to work on legislation for the 2010 session. If you have any ideas for bills, please let me know.*

*Here's my latest update:*

## *Listen-Story*

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at the Kunia Shopping Center Starbucks (94-673 Kupuohi Street) on Saturday, September 26th from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) and my phone number is 586-6830.



### CHAIR

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

### VICE CHAIR

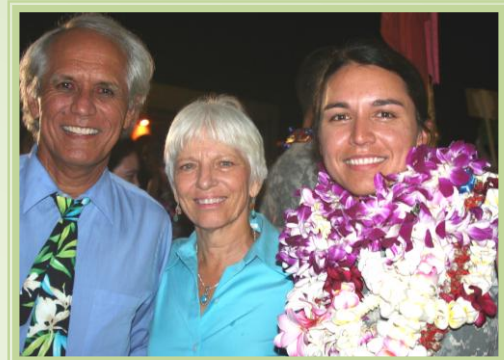
TRANSPORTATION,  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

### MEMBER

PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY  
AFFAIRS  
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT  
OPERATIONS

## Tulsi's Homecoming

Carol and I were ecstatic to welcome our daughter, Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo, home after her 2nd tour of duty in the Middle East with the Hawai'i Army National Guard on August 18th. As you might remember, Tulsi represented Ewa and Waipahu as a State Representative from 2002 to 2004, and also worked as a legislative aide to U.S. Senator Dan Akaka, assisting him with veteran affairs issues.



As a First Lieutenant, Tulsi served as a military police officer and led a platoon of 33 soldiers and conducted a variety of security missions, as well as training with the Kuwait National Guard. Tulsi is now getting some well-deserved rest & relaxation and she is planning her next step. We're very proud of her and all the 1,700 returning warriors of the 29th Brigade Combat Team and thank them for their service to our state and country.



## UH West Oahu: The Silicon Valley of Creative Media?

In July, the University of Hawai'i – West Oahu (UHWO) issued a request for proposal for the sale of 55-acres of land next to the proposed new campus in Kapolei. The revenue from this sale is needed to move forward with plans to complete the campus by fall 2011. In the meantime, many business, educational, and government leaders are envisioning what the focus of the new campus will be. I recently attended a West Oahu Economic Development Association (WOEDA) meeting at Ko 'Olina and had the privilege to hear world-famous Hollywood producer and director Chris Lee speak of how we have the opportunity to position UHWO as a Silicon Valley of creative media. As a follow-up to this speech, I sat down with UHWO Chancellor Gene Awakuni and some of my colleagues to further explore this exciting concept and consider legislation with specific incentives to attract knowledge-based businesses and establish a creative media identity for UHWO. This could be huge!

## SENATE DISTRICT 19

WAIKELE  
VILLAGE PARK  
ROYAL KUNIA  
KAPOLEI  
MAKAKILO  
KALAELOA  
HONOKAI HALE  
AND PORTIONS OF  
WAIPAHAU & KO 'OLINA

Senator Gabbard atop StorSecure in Kapolei with the facility's president, John Morioka, on August 6, 2009.



## StorSecure Going "Green" in Kapolei

I got a tour of StorSecure Self-Storage at Kapolei's 45 kw photovoltaic (PV) system with President and Owner, John Morioka, on August 6th. The PV system was installed in 2006 and includes 200 solar panels. They estimate that the project allows them to reduce carbon emissions by 14,200 pounds per month. This solar energy project greatly reduces StorSecure's monthly energy bill and proves our community's commitment to going "green."

## "Ship it Out" Finally a Reality

I was pleased to hear the good news that the City had reached an agreement with Hawaiian Waste Systems, LLC on a 3-year contract to allow them to ship 100,000 tons of trash to a mainland landfill in Washington State. You might remember that I championed this idea while I was a City Councilman from 2003 to 2005 and actually got a chance to visit the Roosevelt Landfill in Klickitat County, Washington where our opala will end up. Hawaiian Waste Systems has already built a bailing and wrapping facility at Campbell Industrial Park, so they should start shipping by the end of this month. Shipping our trash to the mainland is an environmentally-sound, interim solution to our landfill problem while we ramp up our curbside recycling efforts and waste-to-energy projects, such as the expansion of the H-Power facility which is planned for 2012. A big mahalo to Councilman Apo and Mayor Hannemann for all their efforts in making this project a reality.



## Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Calls Kalaheo Home

I toured the temporary headquarters for the Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Oahu SPCA) on August 22nd. Their animal shelter is located on Roosevelt Avenue in Kalaheo at the 1142 warehouse. Oahu SPCA's mission is to end the unnecessary euthanasia of adoptable animals, and improve the quality of life for all animals. They focus on rescuing, rehabilitating, and re-homing dogs, cats, and other pets. They are just getting started and are in need of volunteers and resources. Here are some ways you can help out:

- ★ Volunteer to assist at 8am and 4pm shifts to feed & clean kennels, walk dogs and socialize cats
- ★ Provide in-kind donations, such as wet and dry pet food, towels, cat litter, and cat/dog toys
- ★ Adopt or foster a dog or cat
- ★ Make financial donations to help pay for animal medical care



*If you'd like more information or are looking to get involved with SPCA, you can check out their website at [www.oahuspc.org](http://www.oahuspc.org), or contact their president, Alicia Maluafiti, at [alicia@oahuspc.org](mailto:alicia@oahuspc.org).*

Guests attending Senator Gabbard's August 22nd "listen-story" community meeting at Kamokila Community Park took a break to enjoy the beautiful Honokai Hale skyline after talking story about issues facing the district and discussing ideas for future legislation. Pictured (L to R) are Lenny Farm, Linda Farm, Mark Sappington, Senator Gabbard, Pete Elson, Erika Tsuji, and Danielle Swenson.

## U.S. Senator Dan Inouye Hosts Hearing at Capitol

On August 24th, U.S. Senator Dan Inouye, Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, held a Field Hearing to get a status report from various government agencies and leaders on the stimulus funding our state has received through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. This Act has provided a total of \$787 billion in tax relief and government spending for our country. Hawai'i has received a total of \$1.24 billion in investment. As Energy and Environment Chair, I'm particularly interested in the \$47.38 million in energy-related grant funding that we've received. Here's a breakdown of those funds:

- ★ \$25.93 million to the State Energy Program
- ★ \$15.07 million through Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grants (\$5.5 million directly to counties, \$9.6 million to the State)
- ★ \$4.04 million through the Weatherization Assistance Program
- ★ \$782,000 for State Electricity Regulators Assistance
- ★ \$318,000 for Enhancing State Government Energy Assurance Capabilities and Planning for Smart Grid Resiliency
- ★ \$1.236 million for State Energy Efficient Appliance Rebate Program

***Mahalo to Senator Inouye for holding this information hearing and also for his continued leadership in representing Hawai'i in Congress.***

## Shark Task Force

I attended a Shark Task Force meeting in Hawai'i Kai on August 18th. This was a follow-up meeting to an Informational Briefing that Senator Clayton Hee, Chair of the Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, and I had hosted in May to hear from experts about shark feeding in relation to commercial tours. As you might know, there are currently two businesses that do shark tours off the coast of the North Shore. Earlier this year, a company started plans to offer shark tours in Hawai'i Kai. This effort was halted after the community raised their concerns about the negative impact that this could potentially have for ocean recreation users.

The Shark Task Force was formed as a result of this situation and is currently chaired by Makani Christensen. The purpose of the August 18th meeting was to start looking at legislation for 2010 which would address the community's concerns related to shark tours. At the meeting, I announced that I've drafted a bill I plan to introduce which would do the following:

- ★ Prohibit use of state boating facilities and state parks for shark tours.
- ★ Prohibit use or transportation of diving cages used for placing humans in close proximity to sharks.

***I'm hopeful that we'll be able to pass this bill out of respect to our Native Hawaiian community, where the shark plays an important cultural role, and to also protect shark's natural ecosystem and the health & safety of ocean users.***



*U.S. Senator Daniel Akaka and state Senator Mike Gabbard offered words of encouragement at the blessing for Hale Uhiwai Nalu (House of the Mist of the Wave) in Kalaeloa on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. Hale Uhiwai Nalu provides 80 new studio apartments for veterans & was developed by Cloudbreak Hawai'i LLC.*



*Senator Gabbard and Senator Hee hosted a joint Informational Briefing at the State Capitol in May 2009 to hear from experts about shark feeding in relation to commercial tours.*



## HAWAII PACIFIC UNIVERSITY PRE-SEASON VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

Senator Gabbard, his wife Carol, and their daughter Tulsi attended a Chaminade volleyball game on August 28th. The opposing team happened to be Long Island's Adelphi University, a squad led by starring senior Anna Gabbard (seventh cousin to the senator), who recorded 73 digs and 17 assists last year! It was a close match, but Adelphi pulled the win in game 3.



## Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo a Success

As Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee, I attended the 2009 Asia Pacific Clean Energy Summit and Expo from August 31 to September 3 at the Sheraton Waikiki Resort along with my Vice Chair, Senator J. Kalani English.

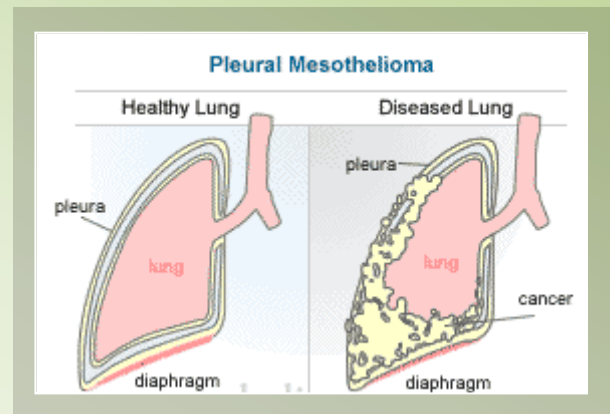
The Summit brought together leaders and experts from all over the Pacific Region to focus on how we can rapidly position our region as the center of innovative, renewable energy technologies. Several companies attending the Conference are looking to put solar and geothermal plants in Kalaheo.



## Bringing Attention to a Deadly Disease: Mesothelioma

I was contacted by a friend and former Kapolei resident, who now lives in Pennsylvania, over the summer. My friend had recently lost his grandfather to a disease called mesothelioma. This is a terminal, asbestos-related cancer that affects the linings of the lungs, abdomen, heart, and testicles. My friend asked that I work on legislation to help bring more public awareness to this dreaded disease.

In my research, I learned that mesothelioma regularly targets workers who have come into contact with asbestos on the job, including a high percentage of Navy shipyard workers. I also was made aware that expected survival time of those diagnosed with the disease is only 8 to 14 months. An organization, called Mesothelioma Applied Research Foundation, was formed in 1999 with the goal of both eradicating and developing effective treatments for the disease. I plan to introduce a bill next session to recognize September 26th of each year as Mesothelioma Awareness Day in our state and to encourage those at risk to receive proper screening.



## Samoan Heritage Week Award

I was humbled to receive an award at the concluding ceremony of the Samoan Heritage Week at Ke'ehi Lagoon on August 8th. Both myself and my daughter Tulsi were recognized for being the first state legislators of Samoan ancestry: me as a Senator and her as a Representative. I accepted the award for Tulsi because she was still deployed with the National Guard. Thousands of people turned out for the week-long event celebrating Samoan culture. The master of ceremonies was Gus Hannemann. Keynote speakers were American Samoa Governor, Togiola Tulafono, and Mayor Mufi Hannemann.



## Gift from Le Fetuao "Ohana"

I was given an autographed photo of the Le Fetuao Samoan Language School "ohana" at my Senate office on August 26th. Le Fetuao is a church-based community outreach program designed to provide preschool to middle school aged children with language, literacy, and cultural vernacular education. The school is located at the First Samoan Methodist Church in Salt Lake. Their founder and director is Elisapeta Tu'upo-Alaimaleata. I had the privilege of serving as the keynote speaker at the school's Open House Celebration in April of this year.

Front row (kneeling L-R): Louisa Te'i (parent), Leon (student), Gloria-Fialelei (student), Deon (student), John Nu'usa (FO of Board). 2nd row (L-R): Sanita Fa'agai (minister's wife), Aitulagi Peto (ECE A'oga Samoa Teacher), Ben-Tasi (student), Rev. Nu'utele Vaeena (Salt Lake Methodist), Senator Gabbard, Rev. Isaako Fa'agai (Waipahu Samoa Methodist, Sec. Board), Rev. Pesi Vitale (Waianae Samoa Methodist), Rev. Apelu Va'i (Ewa Beach Samoa Methodist). 3rd row (L-R): Setu (Waipahu Methodist), Elisapeta Tu'upo-Alaimaleata (Director/Founder Le Fetuao), Rev. Faulalo Leti (Sea/Leader Samoa Methodist Nanakuli/Hawaii).

Senator Mike Gabbard