



# Legislative Update from Senator Mike Gabbard

415 S. BERETANIA ST., ROOM 201 ~ HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: 586-6830 ~ FAX: 586-6679  
sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov ~ www.capitol.hawaii.gov

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**SENATE DISTRICT 19**

MAKAKILO, KAPOLEI, KALAELOA

WAIKELE, VILLAGE PARK

ROYAL KUNIA, HONOKAI HALE,

WAIPAHU, AND KO 'OLINA

*Aloha Friends,*

I wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. We all have much to be thankful for living here in paradise. It's not perfect, but there's no place on this planet where I'd rather be. Each time I talk with visitors from the mainland, almost 100% of them smile and wistfully hint at wanting to stay here and not go back to wherever. So, please relax and kick back this Thanksgiving. That's what I hope to do, before the session starts in January. I hope to see you at my last "Listen Story" meeting of 2011 on Saturday, November 19th. We'll be meeting at the Kunia Starbucks (Kunia Shopping Center) from 9am to 10am. If you can't make it, please call me at 586-6830 or email me at [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) with any concerns you'd like me to take a look at.

## Kapolei City Lights Right Around the Corner

I hope you and your family will be able to participate in the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Kapolei City Lights event at the Kapolei Hale on December 10<sup>th</sup>. There will be a gourmet lunch wagon starting at 4pm, a parade at 6pm, the Mayor's Christmas tree lighting ceremony at 7:30pm, a fireworks display at 8pm, and entertainment from 8-9:30pm. There will be a display in the Kapolei Hale with more than 50 decorated Christmas trees. Uluohia Street will be closed for a block party featuring free games, prizes, jumpers, and goodie bags from Santa. To volunteer or find out more information, please contact Maeda Timson at 349-5992



## Makeke Kapolei – a Farmers' and Green Market

I honored the organizers of the Makeke Kapolei Farmers' Market at their Grand Opening at Kapolei High School on October 20th. Makeke Kapolei is a joint collaboration between Kapolei High School, Malama Learning Center, and Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. These organizations have joined together because of their interest in promoting locally grown food, healthy eating, and sustainable lifestyles among Leeward Oahu residents. Carol and I went and found wide selections of organic and conventional produce, pastries, coffees, plants, coconut peanut butter, and much more. Makeke Kapolei will take place every Thursday from 3-6:30pm, so please check it out.

## Expect Traffic Delays During APEC

I'm sure you've heard that Honolulu is hosting the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) conference from November 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. This will be the largest gathering of world leaders in our City's history and will be a historic opportunity to showcase what makes our home so special. President Barack Obama will join 20 other heads of state for the conference and more than 15,000 are expected as part of the official visitor delegations. There will be heightened security, road & pedestrian restrictions, and traffic delays both in Waikiki and Ko Olina during the event. You should especially be aware that from November 11<sup>th</sup> at 11pm to November 13<sup>th</sup> at 11pm there will be official meetings held at the JW Marriot Ihilani Resort in Ko Olina. This will most likely cause delays on the westbound H-1, Farrington Highway, and at Ko Olina Resort. Please check the City's website to get the latest information so you and your family can be prepared: <http://www1.honolulu.gov/mayor/apec.htm>

## Leeward Young Artist Awards Showcase Our Community's Talent

It was great to once again honor our local talent at the Leeward Young Artist Awards at the Kapolei Hale on October 18<sup>th</sup>. The Leeward Young Artist Awards was started 18 years ago by the former James Campbell Estate. It is now sponsored by its successor company, Kapolei Property Development, as well as Walmart and the Department of Education. This year there were 240 submissions from 22 Leeward schools. Of those, 47 were chosen as finalists and 10 award winners. Here's a list of the ones from Senate District 19.



- Barbers Point Elementary: Emily Botelho (winner, 1<sup>st</sup> grade), Haley Nadig (finalist, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade), and Mia Ohki (finalist, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade)
- Kalei'opu'u Elementary: Katja La Flamme (winner, 5<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Kapolei Elementary School: Samantha Lo (finalist, grade K), Shaveh Saron (finalist, grade K), Ava Vargas (finalist, grade K), and Kihei Viela-Dudoit (finalist, grade K)
- Makakilo Elementary: Preston-Jette Danao (finalist, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Kruise Kaapana (finalist, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), Kylie Kiyuna (finalist, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade), and Khevin Reglos (finalist, 1<sup>st</sup> grade)
- Waikele Elementary: Emily Kondo (finalist, 4<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Kapolei Middle: Kaili Kaalekahi (winner, 7<sup>th</sup> grade), Wynne Bruner (finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Raelynn Kala (finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Stephen Mott (finalist & Art Academy Scholarship winner, 7<sup>th</sup> grade), Melody Oki (finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Kamalani Rickard (finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> grade), Andy Yu (finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> grade)
- Kapolei High: Tomas Flores (winner, 10<sup>th</sup> grade), Courtney Reid (winner, 10<sup>th</sup> grade), Brycen Silva (finalist, 10<sup>th</sup> grade), Alyssa Yomes-Takushi (finalist, 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

### Kroc Center a Huge Blessing for Kapolei



I'm stoked that the Salvation Army's Kroc Center in Kapolei will be completed very soon. The Salvation Army is planning a soft opening in December and official opening in January 2012. They are already taking applications for membership, so please give their Member Services Manager, Jean Pfau, a call at 682-5505 ext. 213 if you'd like to get you and your family signed up. For those who aren't familiar with the history, our Kroc Center was made possible by a \$1.8 billion gift from Joanne Kroc, the wife of McDonald's founder Ray Kroc. Kapolei had to compete with 19 other cities around the country to get our community center built. Our 200,000 square-foot facility cost an estimated \$69 million to build. Here are some of the incredible amenities that will be available to our community:

- Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Education and Resource Center—computer lab, art, ceramic art, active senior learning, tutoring, summer day camp, banquet, conference and meeting rooms.
- Mary D. and Walter F. Frear Early Education Center—serving up to 150 children, ages 2-4.
- Health and Wellness Center—cardio, weights, circuit training, group fitness classes, dance classes, health assessment, massage, and personal training.
- Aquatics Center—recreational pool, water slides, Jacuzzi, competition pool.
- Jack and Marie Lord Worship & Performance Arts Center—church and church activities, music lessons, band choir, children's theater, drama, dance, stage and prop production, video editing.
- Clarence T.C. Ching Athletic Center—basketball, volleyball, roller skating, and open gymnasium
- First Hawaiian Bank Hale Ho'okipa—dormitory for traveling teams, mission teams, and small group conferences.

## H-1 Wakea On and Off Ramps to Open

I know that I join many other West Oahu residents with a big sigh of relief that the H-1 Wakea on and off ramps finally opened on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. This completes Phase I of the Kapolei Interchange Complex, which also included a westbound H-1 on-ramp at Makakilo Drive and an off-ramp at Farrington Highway. This interchange improvement is expected to greatly decrease the traffic which has been piling up at the Kalaeloa/Farrington Highway intersection near Wet-n-Wild. The contractor for the project was Hawaiian Dredging Construction at a total cost of \$18.7 million. Mahalo to Senator Dan Inouye, Kapolei Property Development, and the state Department of Transportation for making this happen.

## Kalaeloa Tennis Association Lease Agreement

I was happy to attend the signing of a lease agreement between the Kalaeloa Tennis Association (KTA) and Hunt Development on October 12th. As a member of the KTA, I helped the group organize and make its initial contact with Hunt. The KTA was formed at the start of 2011 in an effort to repair the Kalaeloa tennis courts and to also provide a place where local tennis buffs could hang out and improve their games. The three-year license gives KTA the exclusive use of the tennis courts. Plans are underway to install new bathrooms, give them a storage room to keep court supplies/tools, and redo the electricity. A high privacy fence and new gates will also be installed to protect against vandalism. If you'd like to join KTA, please contact the group's President, Makakilo resident Nick Young at [makakilojones@gmail.com](mailto:makakilojones@gmail.com).



## Upcoming Makakilo Drive Improvements

I recently received the following announcement from Aina Nui Corporation about upcoming improvements to Makakilo Drive: *Aina Nui Corporation's contractor, Delta Construction Corp., started roadway improvements on Makakilo Drive, adjacent to Chili's, in late October 2011. The improvements will widen the roadway by moving the sidewalk, just mauka of Chilis, about 8-ft to the west. This will allow the makai bound lanes on Makakilo Drive to be restriped so that the right turn and through lanes can be moved slightly to the west to allow for longer left turn storage lanes near the center of the road. Some lane closures / traffic rerouting will be required from time to time. Also the sidewalk on the west side (adjacent to Chilis) of Makakilo Drive will be closed for an extended period of time while the work is being completed. Pedestrians traveling up or down Makakilo Drive will be directed to use the sidewalk on the east side (Diamond Head side) of the road. Work is expected to be completed by the end of the year. This project is independent of other roadway work at the Makakilo Drive / Farrington Highway intersection that is being completed by Walmart's contractor, Nordic PCL Construction, Inc.*

## Big Wind Listening Tour

As the Chair of the Senate Energy and Environment Committee, I led a listening tour to Lana'i and Moloka'i with Senator Kalani English, Rep. Denny Coffman, Rep. Mele Carroll, and Rep. Cynthia Thielen on November 2nd and 3rd. Back in January of this year, I held an informational briefing on the proposed 200 MW wind farms on those islands. The power from the wind farms would be transmitted via undersea cables to Oahu. During the hearings, I made a promise to the people of those communities that I'd visit to get their input on the wind farms.



**Senator Mike Gabbard gave the closing remarks at the Geothermal Summit at Bellows Air Force Base in Waimanalo on October 15, 2011.**

## Helping Get the Word Out About Kalei'opu'u Winter Craft Fair



Kalei'opu'u Elementary is having its Winter Craft Fair on November 18<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 2pm at the school. They'll have bags, dolls, clothes, wallets, jewelry, Tupperware, aromatherapy, baby items, towel sets, towel sets, plants, and handcrafted items. Exhibitors are welcome. To participate, call 675-0266.



## Frito-Lay Goes Green in a Big Way

I joined with Rep. Henry Aquino in presenting certificates from the State Legislature to Frito-Lay in recognition of the unveiling of a LEED plaque for their Waipahu Distribution Center on October 25<sup>th</sup>. The 55,000 square foot facility is Hawaii's first industrial "new construction" to earn the U.S. Green Building Council LEED Gold certification. LEED certification is awarded from the U.S. Green Building Council and verified by the Green Building Certification Institute. LEED is the nation's preeminent program for the design, construction, and operation of high performance green buildings. Some of the impressive features of the new Frito-Lay building include rooftop parking to reduce the amount of the site that was paved, energy saving windows and skylights to provide ample daylight, and reserved parking for carpools and energy efficient vehicles. Building materials were selected for their recycled content, for being regionally manufactured, or for having low levels of Volatile Organic Compounds. Water use was reduced by installing low-flow plumbing fixtures and low-maintenance native plants were incorporated into the landscaping design. Mahalo to Frito-Lay for "leading" the way for more environmentally and community friendly companies on Oahu.

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Senator Mike Gabbard presented Waialeale resident, Hunter Kekoa James, a certificate from the State Senate at his Eagle Court of Honor Ceremony at the Okinawan Center in Waipio on October 23rd.



Senator Mike Gabbard served as a judge at Kapolei Library's "Fright Night" on October 25th. Pictured (L to R) are costume contest winners Christopher Harris (5-8 year olds), Michael, Mika, & Bekka Kile (Ohana), Sherry & Orion Tani (0-4 year olds), The Nerd (9-12 year olds), Lee Tokuhara (DR Horton Schuler Division), and Shari-Lyn Murphy (Kapolei Public Library).



Senator Gabbard participated in the National Plug-In Day event in Kakaako on October 16<sup>th</sup> to celebrate and encourage our state's transition to electric vehicles. Senator Gabbard has been a proud owner of a Nissan Leaf since April of this year.

