


Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia, Makakilo,
Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale,
and portions of Ko 'Olina & Waipahu

Mike Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District



May 2008

Aloha,

I hope you and your family are well! We've had a very busy and fruitful legislative session, which just ended on May 1st.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov and my phone number is 586-6830. Mahalo for the privilege of serving you!

Mike



April 10, 2008 - Senator Gabbard with Mr. Nakatsu's 5th-grade class at Kapolei Elementary, where he read the book, *Henry's Freedom Box*, and discussed what he experienced growing up in the Deep South in the 50s and 60s.

Sports and Entertainment Industries Key to Our Economy



During the past several months, I've been working with UH, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and key figures in the sports/entertainment industry on proposals to position Hawaii as a premier destination for entertainment and sports productions and events.

You may not know this, but the sports and entertainment industries in Hawaii combine for an estimated \$500 million and play a vital role in providing jobs, creating positive media exposure, and enhancing the quality of life for our community. In 2004, the United States sports industry was estimated at \$213 billion, which is more than double the size of the United States automobile industry and seven times the size of the film industry.



This legislative session I introduced SB 2362 to establish an entertainment and sports authority with the goal of marketing, promoting, developing, and coordinating entertainment and sports-related activities and events. Although this bill didn't pass, we are now looking into creating a sports authority as a non-profit organization outside the confines of government.

I also introduced SCR 70, which requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau do a study on the feasibility of establishing a degree program for Sports and Entertainment Management at UH. There are already 86 universities and colleges around the country which have these types of innovative programs to train future leaders in the sports and entertainment industries. SCR 70 has successfully passed all the legislative hurdles and the study is due before the start of the next session.





Ignition Interlock Bill Passes Conference Committee

During the closing days of the legislative session, I served as Chair of a key Conference Committee. If you're not familiar, Conference Committee refers to the period during late April when the House and Senate come together to work out differences in their bills.

HB 3377 was introduced by Rep. Sharon Har and would require the installation of an ignition interlock device on the car of a person who has been arrested for a DUI which prevents him/her from driving a car if they've been drinking. The bill also establishes a task force to plan for implementation of the law in July, 2010. I was happy to introduce the Senate version of this bill, SB 3234.

Hawaii happens to be one of only 5 five states in the country without an ignition interlock device law on the books. We also have the notorious distinction of having one of the highest percentages of traffic deaths involving alcohol in the nation. Studies have shown that interlock devices significantly reduce drunk driving by 50 to 95%. HB 3377 is a common sense approach to keeping drunk drivers off our roads.



Important Senate District 19 Construction Projects in the State Budget

We voted to approve the supplemental state budget for the second year of the 2007-2009 biennium on April 30th. As you know, the economy has slowed down and the Legislature has less tax revenues than expected to meet the community's needs. However, I have been able to work with my colleagues at the Legislature to ensure that several Senate District 19 projects are in the budget. Here is list of those important projects:



- \$14,000,000 - Ft. Barrette Road Widening
- \$6,600,000 - Kalaeloa Harbor Improvements
- \$850,000 - Kalaeloa Safety Improvements
- \$500,000 - Malama Learning Center (at Kapolei High School)
- \$200,000 - Makakilo Baptist Church Preschool
- \$100,000 - Barbers Point Elementary Improvements



Chairing Senate Transportation Committee Meeting

On April 18th, I chaired a meeting of the Senate Transportation & International Affairs Committee in the absence of the chair of the committee, Senator Kalani English. We heard HB 2250 and were able to pass it out of the Committee.



HB 2250 would create a system for regulating inter-island air carriers. It would set up an Air Carrier Commission which would have jurisdiction over airline services between the islands of Hawaii. HB 2250 is one of a package of bills that are intended to stabilize Hawaii's airline industry and to ensure that an event like the Aloha Airlines bankruptcy doesn't happen again.

Two other bills in the package are HB 509 and HB 2860. HB 509 would allow DBEDT to guarantee up to 90% of the principal balance of a loan by a bank to a Hawaii air carrier. HB 2860 would exempt airlines from paying general excise taxes on fuel purchased from a foreign trade zone.

It's important to note that due to the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978 states and counties are prohibited from regulating the domestic operations of U.S. airlines. Therefore, HB 2250 would not go into effect until Congress passed legislation to authorize our state to regulate inter-island carriers.

HPD Officer John Dorsey Honored

On April 14th, I had the privilege of presenting Officer John Dorsey with a certificate from the State Senate at a small ceremony at the Kapolei Police Station. Officer Dorsey had distinguished himself by being named the District 8 Officer of the Fourth Quarter (2007). If you're not aware, the police officers of District 8 cover Ewa Beach to Kaena Point.

Officer Dorsey is a 16-year veteran of HPD and works the 10pm to 7am shift. During the midnight watch, Officer Dorsey patrols traffic, responds to reported incidents, and with a district that includes diverse areas like Campbell Industrial Park, Ko 'Olina, and the entire Waianae Coast, he's learned to be ready for just about anything. During the fourth quarter of last year, for example, Officer Dorsey was busy making arrests for nine DUIs, two misdemeanors, twenty-one warrants, and forty-seven traffic-related incidents. He also played a key role in the arrest of a burglar at Nanakuli High School.



Honoring Miss Hawaii Teen America 2008

I was pleased to attend a fundraising party for Ms. Le'a Kunipo at Hawaiian Brian's on April 19th. During the celebration, I presented Le'a a certificate from the State Senate for her outstanding accomplishment of being named the Miss Hawaii Teen America 2008. Le'a also took home the Most Photogenic Award. Her pageant platform in the competition was, "Living a balanced life of body, mind and spirit," which she demonstrates flawlessly in her own life.



Le'a is a high school student at Ma'ili Bible School and lives in Nanakuli. She maintains a 3.8 GPA and has won awards for testing well in English, Bible Studies, History, Science and Math. Le'a is also the yearbook editor and finds time to enjoy volleyball, basketball and soccer. Her parents, Edward and Cynthia Kunipo, are proud that Le'a is very active with her church where she sings and plays the drums on the Worship Team and dances for the Hula Ministry.

I join Le'a's family and friends in wishing her luck as she prepares for her trip to Nashville in July to compete at the National Miss Teen America Scholarship Pageant.

CWO Junior Aque Retires!

I was able to surprise Chief Warrant Officer Fermin "Junior" Aque, Jr. with a certificate from the State Senate at his retirement party at the NCTAMS PAC Base Chapel in Wahiawa on March 28th. Mr. Aque retired from a distinguished 30-year career with the U.S. Navy on April 1st. Throughout his long and active career with the Navy, Mr. Aque had many roles and found himself in many places – including a helicopter technician in North Island, California, three Arabian Gulf deployments as an Enlisted Surface Warfare Specialist & Combat Systems Coordinator, Junior Officer of the Deck, and Officer of the Deck while on an arduous tour in the Indian Ocean, Yellow Sea & Sea of Japan – to name just a few.

Mr. Aque earned numerous medals for his dedicated and unwavering service to the Navy. Some of his awards are the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with four gold stars), Navy Unit Commendation (with one bronze star), Meritorious Unit Commendation (with one bronze star), and the Good Conduct Medal (with four bronze stars).

Mr. Aque currently lives in Mililani with his wife Milagros and their youngest son of 3, Alex. Their first son Francis serves in the US Army in Fort Knox, Kentucky and their second son Michael goes to college in California. Junior attends St. Jude Catholic Church in Makakilo and is a member of the Knights of Columbus fraternal service organization. I wish him many more years of good health and happiness with his family.



“Listen-Story”

I'll be hosting my next “Listen-Story” meeting at the Royal Kunia Community Association office (above Times Supermarket in Kunia) at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 10th. Please come. If you can't make it, please call or e-mail your concerns.

2008 Leeward District Teacher of the Year Honored at State Capitol

I was happy to honor Ms. Shari Takahashi of Waikele at the State Capitol on March 28th for being named the 2008 Leeward District Teacher of the Year. Ms. Takahashi has been a librarian and 5th and 6th-grade teacher at Nanaikapono Elementary School in Nanakuli since 1993.



Shari definitely deserves this award for all her hard work and dedication to teaching the youth of West Oahu. I know the Waikele community and her family and friends are very proud of this outstanding accomplishment.

Growing up, Ms. Takahashi considered herself a non-traditional learner but was still successful in dealing with the many challenges of the academic world. She has discovered many creative ways to introduce the various concepts of learning to her students. Her teaching specialty is math. Whether it's through drawing, pictures, videos, music, real life experiences, or even acting things out, she incorporates every resource possible so she's able to teach to all learning styles.

Senator Gabbard Honors Eagle Scouts

On March 29th, I presented Shaun Higashida and Kyle Kettner certificates from the State Senate at a ceremony at Camp Timberline in Makakilo in recognition of their achieving the rank of Eagle Scout.

Shaun and Kyle have shown great leadership and perseverance in achieving this honor. I hope they'll consider entering public service because this is the kind of young people we need in public office.



Shaun and Kyle scout with Troop 44, Ko 'Olina District, Aloha Council. Shaun is a senior at Hawaii Baptist Academy and has been on the President's Honor Roll. He is also the captain of the school's cross-country team. Kyle is a senior at Kapolei High School. He has been a member of the school's lacrosse, junior varsity football and junior varsity basketball teams. Both Shaun and Kyle have been involved with placing American flags and lei on the graves of our fallen heroes at the National Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl.



From right to left: **Rock Riggs, Chief of Staff**
Kathy Gorak (Administrative Assistant), Erika Moon (Community Liaison), Alan Teixeira (Committee Clerk)

At the State Capitol



Left photo - Senator Gabbard joined Senators Chun Oakland and Espero on April 1st to honor the Sisters of Saint Francis for their numerous and outstanding achievements and the tremendous aloha and care their group has shown to the people of Hawaii over the past 125 years.

Right photo - On April 21st, Senator Gabbard, US Rep Neil Abercrombie, State Reps (from left) Magaoay, Mizuno, Dr. Green, Speaker Say, Caldwell, Rhoads, and community members showed support at the Chronic Kidney Disease Rally for Life at the State Capitol Rotunda.

Senator Mike Gabbard