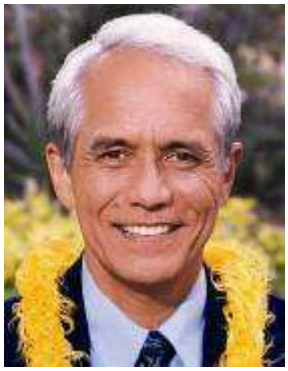


Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia, Makakilo, Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale, and portions of Ko 'Olina & Waipahu

Mike Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District

September 2008

Aloha,

*Congratulations to all of Hawaii's Olympians and Waipio's World Champion Little League team who have all made us so proud! I'd like to especially recognize Kapolei residents, **Clarissa Chun**, for making it to the medal round in the women's freestyle wrestling (105.5 lbs.) division, and **Pikai Winchester**, for playing on Waipio's team. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.*

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

Mike

Sen Gabbard was happy to present Principal Claudia Nakachi & the Barbers Point Elementary ohana with 40 free backpacks for children in need this school year. The backpacks were donated through a partnership by the National Foundation of Women Legislators & Office Depot.

Challenger Center Hawaii Safe for Now

You might have heard in the media that JV sports were recently at risk of being cut by the Board of Education (BOE). However, you might not have known that the Challenger Center Hawaii (CCH), located on the campus of Barbers Point Elementary, was also on the chopping block. I was happy to testify at the August 7th BOE meeting in support of keeping the $255,732 in the budget for this very important educational program.

If you're not familiar, a unique public private partnership came together in 1993 to launch the CCH. The CCH is one of only 50 such programs in the United States, Great Britain, Canada, and South Korea. It has allowed over 73,000 public and private students from middle schools from across the state to gain first hand knowledge about the workings of a mission control room, modeled after NASA's Johnson Space Center, and a Space Station. I commend the BOE for giving both JV sports and the CCH another look before going forward with the budget cuts.

Business Steps Up to Cut Overgrowth in Honokai Hale

Honokai Hale Grass Overgrowth
August 13, 2008

A big mahalo to Group Builders, Inc. and their president Mr. Lito Alcantara for stepping up to the plate and cutting some overgrowth along Farrington Hwy near the Waiomea Street bus stop. I had been contacted by a Honokai Hale resident who was very concerned about overgrown grass and weeds behind her house.

I sent my community liaison, Erika Moon, to the area to take some photos to see if we could get the appropriate government office to assist. We were pleasantly surprised when Erika coincidently met Mr. Lito Alcantara Jr. who offered to cut the overgrowth. He made good on his promise the next day. I'll continue working with the Department of Transportation in the hopes that we can get this area maintained on a more regular basis.

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, September 13, 2008.

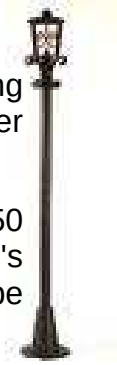
Kapolei High's "Ho'ola Leadership Academy" opening ceremony

Expanded Bus Service for Kaupe'a Community

I was recently contacted by a Kaupe'a resident who was concerned about having to walk from her home to catch TheBus at Kama'aha Avenue and Kapolei Parkway. We wrote the City to see if they would consider providing better bus service for this new residential community, located off Kapolei Parkway between Kapolei High and Middle schools.

I was very happy to receive letters from the Department of Transportation Services on July 18th and July 28th announcing that as of August 25th, Route F13 would have expanded service for the Kaupe'a community. TheBus will go in a clockwise loop using Kama'aha, Puainako, Kapolei Parkway, and back to Kama'aha. A big mahalo to Mayor Hannemann and DTS Director Wayne Yo shioka for improving bus service for the people of Kapolei!

Improved Lower Campus Lighting for Waikele Elementary



I was happy to learn that the Department of Education is moving forward with a project to improve exterior lighting for the lower campus at Waikele Elementary School.

Standard Electric, Inc. has recently been awarded a $51,250 contract to install additional light at the perimeter of the school's basketball court. We've been informed that the project should be complete by the end of this school year.

Old Timers Boxing Club

A friend and constituent from Makakilo recently asked me to help bring more publicity to the Old Timers Boxing Club. This club was formed in Waipahu in 1986 by the famous Yasui brothers: Johnny, Tommy, Freddy, and Eddy.

The purpose of the club is to allow boxers of all ages to come together and talk story about the storied history of boxing in Hawaii. They currently have about 50 members, but are looking to reach out to other boxers who may have lost touch with their old friends and past competitors.

The current president is Mr. Bobby Lee of Maui and their secretary/treasurer is Mr. Bobby Hayashida of Waipahu. The club doesn't have a home base, but meets every three months for lunch at the Oahu Veterans Center (1298 Kukila Street). Their next luncheon is Friday, December 5th from 11am to 2pm. Yearly dues are just $5 to join and the luncheon is $10. For more information, please contact Mr. Hayashida at 677-4501.

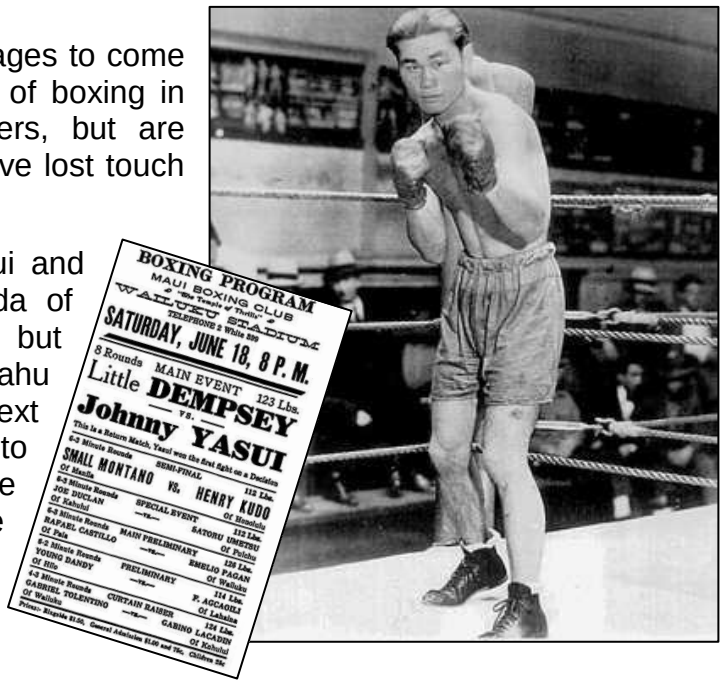


Photo at right: Johnny Yasui, and actual copy of fight bulletin, 1932.

'Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center Celebrates 1st Anniversary

I was on hand to congratulate the 'Olelo ohana at their 1st Anniversary Party and Kahea for the 'Olelo Waipahu Community Media Center (CMC) at Waipahu Intermediate School on August 14th. The CMC allows keiki, adults, and organizations access to professional video production equipment and training free of charge.

From left: Senators Will Espero & Mike Gabbard, 'Olelo President & CEO Keali'I Lopez, 'Olelo Community Developer Sparky Rodrigues, Senator Clarence Nishihara – August 14, 2008.

It's easy to see that the Waipahu CMC's presence has been appreciated and has greatly benefited the community. From August 2007 to August 2008 people from Waipahu, Pearl City, Ewa Beach, Mililani and Kapolei created more than 726 programs and over 169 hours of material. These dedicated and hard working producers have been able to share their mana'o through 16,500 broadcasts.

I commend 'Olelo Community Television President and CEO, Keali'i S. Lopez, Community Developer Sparky Rodrigues, and all the dedicated staff and volunteers who have made the CMC a success.

Unique Partnership Makes Seagull Schools Shine

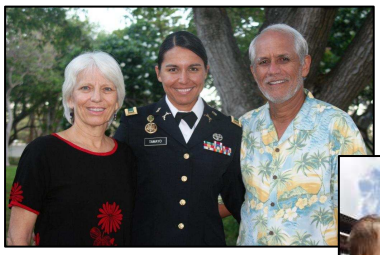
It was an honor to present Mr. Chuck Larson, Executive Director of Seagull Schools, and Mr. Steve MacMillan, CEO of the James Campbell Company, with certificates from the State Senate in recognition of their 15-year partnership at a ceremony at the school's Kapolei campus on July 31st. This partnership has made Seagull Schools the first-rate facility and model program that it is today.

From left: Seagull Schools Executive Director Chuck Larson, Senator Mike Gabbard, James Campbell Company CEO Steve MacMillan – July 31, 2008.

Since 1999, besides generous contributions to Seagull Schools, James Campbell Company employees and the James & Abigail Family Foundation have put "sweat equity" into the development of the programs through volunteer work and leadership positions on the Seagull Schools Board of Directors.

Seagull Schools, Inc. started small with a private preschool in a Kailua church in 1972. Today, their "caring community" facilities can be found in Kailua, Kapolei, Ewa Beach, downtown Honolulu and the Big Island, with new locations and expansions in the works.

Bidding Aloha to Our Troops



Mahalo to the soldiers & families of the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who were honored at a sendoff ceremony at Aloha Stadium on August 16, 2008.

Attempt to set a new world record for the largest group hug following the ceremony.

My daughter, 2LT Tulsi Gabbard Tamayo, is among the 1,700 being deployed to the Middle East. We wish them all Godspeed for a successful tour and a safe return.

Time for Hawaii to Become Telework Leader

I wrote a commentary that was printed in the Honolulu Advertiser on August 5th. The following is a condensed version of the article. If you'd like to read the article in its entirety, please visit this link:

http://beta.honoluluadvertiser.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080805/OPINION03/808050309/1110/OPINIONFRONT

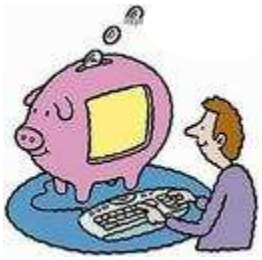
A pilot project in the state Department of Human Resources for a 4-day work week? It's about time! This makes perfect sense as our soaring gas prices and traffic congestion take their toll on everyone in Hawaii. It's a good first step in getting people off our roads and allowing them to spend more time with their families. But we can do much more!

In 2006, Sperling's Best Places ranked Honolulu 8th in the nation among medium-sized metropolitan areas for the potential benefits that teleworking could offer our residents. If you're not familiar, teleworking frees up government and private sector employees to work from home or whatever location they choose. Studies have shown that teleworking decreases traffic, improves people's health and well-being, increases productivity, and allows people to spend more quality time with their families.

We've looked at this issue before, but our past efforts have been inconsistent and short-lived. When I took office as a state senator in November 2006, I started researching whether we could improve our quality of life by encouraging government and businesses to allow their employees to work from home. For almost 20 years, Arizona has been a leader in teleworking. They have an office dedicated to fulfilling a state mandate which requires all of their departments to participate in a telework program.

So in 2007, my office consulted with experts in Arizona to craft Senate Bill 698. My bill would have directed the DOT to be the lead agency in coordinating and implementing a 1-year pilot workplace flexibility program for state employees. It would have required that four state agencies have, at a minimum, 10% of their workforce choose a workplace flexibility option, including telework, compressed work weeks (4 – 10-hour work days or 9 days on and 1 day off), or adjusted work schedules (flextime).

The International Telework Association and Council estimates that 16% of U.S. residents worked at least once a week from home in 2006. A group that gives work-at-home job advice called Undress4Success.com has put together some interesting statistics concluding that only 4.3% of Hawaii residents work from home.



Using government data from the EPA, the federal Department of Transportation, the US Census, and several other sources, Undress4Success.com finds that another 36% of Hawaii residents have jobs conducive to working at home. They estimate that an average Hawaii worker could save 231 gallons of gas annually and have $1,009 more in their pockets. They also estimate that we would be able to save 55 million gallons of gas each year. Their findings show that on a national level, if roughly 40% of people in our country who have jobs that are a good fit for teleworking were doing so, we could reduce Gulf Oil imports by 74% and gas consumption by 12.3 billion gallons a year. These numbers are amazing!

It doesn't make sense to be living in paradise, but always stressed out about spending all our time in our cars. In the coming months, I'll be talking to people and working with my colleagues at the Capitol on ideas for legislation for 2009. I'm convinced that the time is now for Hawaii to become a telework leader!

Senator Mike Gabbard

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