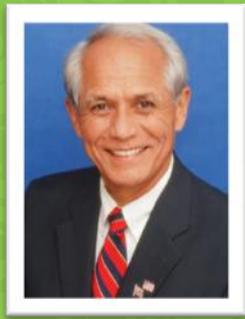


Senator Mike Gabbard



April 1, 2010



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MEMBER

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AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT
OPERATIONS

Aloha Friends,

Happy Easter, Passover, and Spring!!! As a way of cutting costs, the Legislative Session concludes a week early this year on April 29th.

On another note, I'd like to offer my sincere condolences and prayers to the family and friends of former state representative Mitsuo Shito of Waikele who passed away on February 12th. He was a true "public servant" and will be missed by us all.

Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.

Mike Gabbard
State Senator for the 19th District

Listen-Story

My next Listen-Story meeting will be held at the Waikele Starbucks (next to Borders) on Saturday, May 1st from 9:00 – 10:00 am.

I hope you can make it to hear the outcomes of the 2010 Legislative Session.

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.



Ron Boyer Appointed as the Acting Director of DCCA

A big congratulations to Ron Boyer of Makakilo (in photo at right with his wife Cissy, children Drake and Elli, and Circuit Court Judge Reifurth) for being appointed by the Governor as acting Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs on March 10th. Mr. Boyer had been serving as Deputy Director of DCCA since 2007. He also did a great job as my Senior Aide when I was a City Councilman from 2003 to 2005.



Hana Hou! Upcoming Makakilo Elementary Performances

I was honored to lead in singing "Hawai'i Pono I" with the Makakilo Elementary Choir and Hula Halau on December 23, 2009. The program, directed by Dr. Karen Miyamoto, has since grown bigger and better, and now also includes a newly formed Ukulele Ensemble. Don't forget to mark your calendar with their upcoming performances this spring. For more information, contact Makakilo Elementary School Principal, Sean Tajima, at 672-1122.

- ★ **Thursday, April 22nd 1:00 - 1:30pm**
Mauka Lani Elementary, Outdoor Stage
- ★ **Thursday, April 29th 1:15 - 1:45pm**
Kapolei Elementary School Cafeteria
- ★ **Thursday, May 20th 1:00 - 1:30pm**
WITH THE ROYAL HAWAIIAN BAND
Makakilo Elementary School Cafeteria
- ★ **Thursday, May 20th 6:45 - 7:15pm**
ALOHA CONCERT
Makakilo Elementary School Cafeteria



Senate District 19

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



Urging the Governor to Sign Off on EIS for Rail Project

I spearheaded a letter signed by 12 of my Senate colleagues urging Governor Lingle to review and accept the environmental impact statement for the Honolulu Rail Transit Project in a timely manner once the document is released by the Federal Transit Administration. By law, this project can't move forward until the Governor signs off on the document. Back in 2006 when I was elected to represent the residents of Senate District 19, I polled the community and found that 61% supported the rail project. Therefore, I've been a supporter of this project and am convinced it's the right thing to do to help alleviate our traffic problems, decrease our use of gasoline, and help create much needed jobs. We should move forward with this very important transportation project, given the recent vote of confidence by the Obama administration to include \$55 million in federal funds for our rail system, with the additional expectation of \$1.55 billion in construction funds in the coming years. It's now or never for rail transit on Oahu.

Mahalo nui loa to Paul Conry and David Smith of the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Forestry Division for taking time out of their weekends on March 13th to show off the beautiful Mount Ka'ala to me, my family, and my staff (photo at right).

Their knowledge and passion for the area, its history, the plant and wildlife, and future plans for preservation of Oahu's highest peak were inspiring.



Ed Kubo and Larry Reifurth Sworn in as Judges

It was a privilege to represent the State Senate at the swearing-in ceremony for newly confirmed judges Ed Kubo and Larry Reifurth on March 11th. Judge Kubo served as the U.S. Attorney from 2001 to 2009 and is now a circuit court judge for the First Circuit (Oahu). Judge Reifurth was the Director of the state Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs from 2007 to March 2010. He now is a judge on the Intermediate Court of Appeals. Mahalo to Judge Reifurth and Judge Kubo for their willingness to serve us in this regard.



Island Pacific Academy Career Day: a Success

I enjoyed speaking at Island Pacific Academy's first Career Day at the Kapolei-based private, college preparatory school on March 17th. Kapolei Public Library Manager Stacie Kanno, Rich Hargrave of the Civil Air Patrol, Rep. Sharon Har and I, and many others all got a chance to share our experiences and offer guidance to over 100 eighth grade students. I was really impressed with the intelligent

questions the students asked after my talk. I encouraged them to look at public service as an option, not as a career, but to consider serving for at least 4-6 years before they become businesspeople, doctors, lawyers, or whatever. My talk focused on my experiences as a State Senator and City Councilman, and I urged the students to be passionate about whatever they decide to do. I told them that whatever career path they take, do the best job they can, and care about what they do. That's the most important thing I wanted them to remember. The career day was organized by IPA's Middle School Dean of Students and Humanities teacher, Cami Nihipali. IPA was founded in 2004 and has 650 students from grades pre-K to 12. They are the largest private school in West Oahu and will be celebrating their first graduating class in May 2010. Their headmaster is Dr. Dan White.



Hawai'i Farmers Union Honored at the Capitol

Recently I honored officers and board members of the Hawai'i Farmers Union on March 24th at the Capitol. The Hawai'i Farmers Union is based in Honoka'a on the Big Island and is the newest branch of the National Farmers Union – America's oldest and most distinguished farming organization – representing nearly 300,000 members nationwide and advocating for family farmers, ranchers, fishers and rural communities since 1902. The National Farmers Union welcomed Hawai'i Farmers Union as a subdivision of California Farmers Union in 2008. Hawai'i Farmers Union's membership is experiencing an exponential growth rate and anticipates becoming a self-sustaining chapter of the National Farmers Union within 5 years.

As affirmed in its mission and vision statements, the Hawai'i Farmers Union serves as a resource and catalyst for the organization and empowerment of farmers, and advocates for the rights of people to earn a prosperous living through the restorative stewardship of our lands, waters, and communities. Mahalo to the Hawai'i Farmers Union for promoting respect for the 'aina and the pono use of our natural resources while producing fresh foods to feed Hawai'i's people. Their determination to support our farmers who are the roots of thriving, healthy, and strong communities deserves our praise.



Pictured above from left: Travis Overly, Vice President Lydi Morgan, Pamela Boyar, Secretary Ramona Hiilawe Gamayo, Senator Gabbard, Annie Suite, and Jay Ogden from the Hawai'i Farmers Union.

Recognizing the Environmental Review Working Group

It was my pleasure to honor and recognize the Environmental Review Working Group on the Senate Floor on March 30th. As directed by the State Legislature in Act 1 of 2008, the University of Hawai'i conducted a study of the state's environmental review system in order to submit a proposal to the Legislature for improvement. The UH Study Team spent more than a year interviewing various stakeholders in order to develop their recommendations.



SB 2818 was the result of the UH Study Team's recommendations. However, at the joint hearing before the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs, there was a surprising amount of opposition from all sides. As a result, I convened a 12-member working group to seek middle ground in the spirit of compromise in order to develop further amendments.



The members of the working group invested an incredible amount of time and thought into this collaborative effort. They met nine times from February 16th through March 22nd of this year, and also met as sub-groups to try to resolve particularly thorny issues and report back to the whole working group. Their commitment, perseverance, and collaboration were invaluable to the success of the group, which will ultimately benefit all of Hawai'i.

Pictured above from left: Lee Sichter, David Henkin, Robert Harris, Dr. Gail Grabowsky, Scott Glenn, Mark Fox, and Professor Denise Antolini. Missing that day were: Professor Karl Kim, Peter Rappa, Katherine Kealoha, David Atkin, Dean Uchida, and David Arakawa.



Electric Vehicles Are the Future

I had the opportunity to spend an hour on *Energy Futures* live, call-in radio show (Hawai'i Public Radio) on March 15th.

The show is hosted by Donalyn Dela Cruz. I was on the air with Mark Piscioneri, Oahu Manager of Hawai'i Electric Vehicles – HIEV and Maria Tome, Transportation and Renewable Energy Program Manager for the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism. I was asked to discuss the future plans for electric vehicles in our state and legislation that I introduced to help incentivize the purchase of electric vehicles.



How's this for an interesting piece of trivia:

The first car that arrived in Hawai'i in October, 1898 was a Woods Electric owned by Henry P. Baldwin.



Last year, as Energy and Environment Chair I worked on laws that help set the stage for the large scale introduction of plug-in electric vehicles in our islands. First, there was Act 156 that sets aside 1% of parking spaces in parking lots of over 100 stalls for electric vehicles. Second, there was Act 114 that authorized \$45 million in special purpose revenue bonds so that Better Place can put in the necessary infrastructure, such as charging stations, for electric vehicles. And that brings us to where we are this year with SB 2231, a bill I authored.

The main purpose of SB 2231 is to change the vicious cycle that sends \$5 billion of our money each year to countries that don't like us. The bill helps us by attracting electric vehicles and electric vehicle infrastructure to our state by giving companies and car dealers a general excise tax exemption for the sale or leasing of electric vehicles or electric vehicle charging stations. The exemption would start in July 2010 and extend until the end of 2014.

The clearest way to think about the benefits of this bill is to consider how it would positively impact our car dealers. Car dealers wouldn't have to pay the general excise tax on the cars they sell. Estimates are that the plug-in electrics which will be coming online in the next few years will be roughly \$30,000 to \$40,000. With SB 2213 enacted, this would save the dealers \$1,800 per car. ***Story continues on next page.***

Ag / Sustainability Day at the State Capitol - March 24, 2010



Youth Testify!!! Halley Hobson of Ewa Beach, age 16



Ryan McDonald, President of Generation Joshua, age 15



Continued from "Electric Vehicles" story on previous page: What would happen is that the dealers would let their manufacturers, like Nissan, GM, or Mitsubishi, know that Hawai'i has these incentives in place and that they'd like to get some electric vehicles sent over. Consumers in turn would have the opportunity to buy the electric vehicles and as word spreads, we'd really see a change in the market. Another good thing is that people are eligible for a federal tax credit on the purchase of plug-in electric vehicles which is up to \$7,500.



To give you an idea where we are right now, there are less than 200 plug-in electric vehicles in the state. However, only about 30 of those are cars that are equivalent to what you and I are driving. The rest of them are the neighborhood electric vehicles which don't go over 25 MPH. We're hoping to see major car makers start shipping electric vehicles to Hawai'i on a larger scale starting by the end of this year.

My hat's off to some of our developers who are stepping up as well. In Kapolei, Gentry has partnered with the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands on the Kanehili project. This development includes 300 "green" homes that have electric vehicle chargers in the garages. They already have 120 built and the rest are coming soon.

I'm hopeful we can get SB 2231 passed into law this session. The bill got through the Senate and is now working its way through the House. Please contact my office if you'd like to weigh in on this important legislation. The more people that show support for this effort, the more likely we'll be successful.



Listen-Story Community Meeting



March 27, 2010 in Kapolei



Colorful Quik Pix!

of March 2010



John Fielding & Boy Scouts 3/31



Famous Hawai'i Artist Satoru Abe 3/05



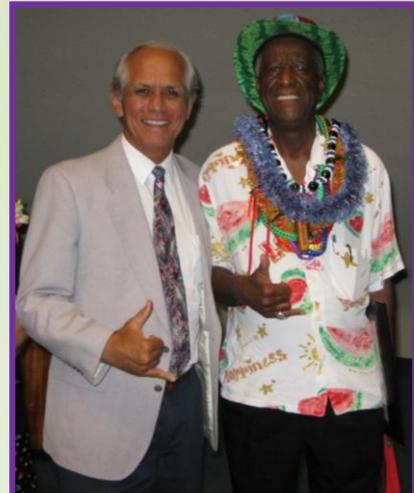
Barbers Point Bowling Center 3/08



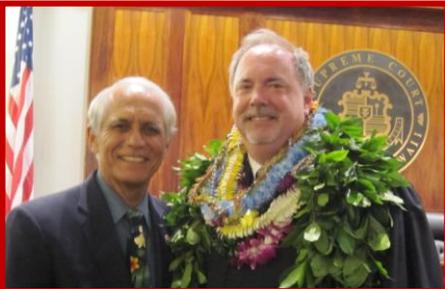
Fe's Retirement from DAGS 3/30



Hawai'i Army National Guard Honored by Senate 3/12



Famous Amos 3/18



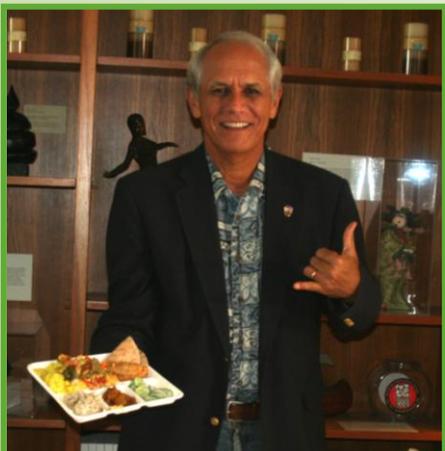
Swearing-in of Judge Reifurth 3/12



Royal Order of Kamehameha on Senate Floor 3/09



Swearing-in of Judge Kubo 3/12



Gabbard Cooks for Foodbank! 3/05



Rev. Bert Sumikawa, Kapolei Buddhist Sangha Delivers Senate Prayer on 3/22



Leader for a Day Brighton Rowley 3/12