



Senator Mike Gabbard

19th District, West Oahu

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

CHAIR

ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

VICE CHAIR

TRANSPORTATION, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

MEMBER

PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

◆ August 2010 ◆

Aloha Friends,

We'll be having a Special Session at the Capitol on August 5th and 6th to consider the confirmation of Katherine Leonard as the first female Supreme Court Chief Justice in the history of our state (please see the story below). Here are some other things going on around town.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way. Email me at sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov or call the office at 586-6830.

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee

Senate Paperless Initiative Draws National Attention

In 2007, the State Senate launched a paperless initiative to reduce its use of paper, save money, and adopt "greener" practices. From 2007 to 2010, the Senate has been able to reduce its paper use during the legislative session from 8,328,688 printed pages to 1,543,053 printed pages. This is a whopping 80% reduction and has saved us roughly \$350,000. As a result of the Senate's efforts, the U.S. Senate has taken notice, resulting in a teleconference on July 21, 2010 between the Senate Clerk's Office and the U.S. Senate Chief Information Office on the planning and implementation of paperless office practices at their offices in Washington D.C. How cool is that? Tiny, little Hawai'i out here in the Pacific setting an example for the "big guys" to follow!

Special Session 2010

The Senate will hold a Special Session on August 5th and 6th to consider the confirmation of 8 individuals who have been appointed to serve as judges. Leading up to the Special Session, I will be participating in hearings as a member of the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee to learn more about the nominees on August 2nd and 3rd. Governor Lingle has appointed Katherine Leonard to replace Ronald Moon as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. She would be the fifth Chief Justice and first woman to hold that post. Jeannette Castagnetti, Colette Garibaldi, and Faauga To'oto'o have been appointed by the Governor to serve as Circuit Court judges for the First Circuit (Honolulu). Chief Justice Moon has appointed Sherri-Ann Iha, Steven Nakashima, Matthew Viola, and Michael Tanigawa for consideration as District Court judges for the First Circuit (Honolulu). For more information, please contact my office at 586-6830.

Listen-Story Meeting

My next "Listen-Story" community meeting will be at Kapolei Starbucks (next to the Chevron station) on Saturday, August 21st from 9:00-10:00am. I hope you can join me!



Photo from July 24th meeting at Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale.

Senator Mike Gabbard

East Kapolei Fire Station Coming Soon

I participated in the ground breaking ceremony for the East Kapolei Fire Station on July 19th. The new fire station will be located across the street from the existing headquarters of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands at the corner of Kinoiki and Kamokuiki streets.

The fire station will be the Honolulu Fire Department's first regional fire station and will include an engine company and a ladder company with a total of 30 personnel. It will serve the eastern portion of downtown Kapolei, the Villages of Kapolei, Kapolei Knolls, Malanai, the Kapolei Golf Course, the Makakilo Quarry, UH West Oahu, East Kapolei (Phases I and II), the western portion of Ewa Villages, and the central portion of Kalaeloa. One of the highlights of the facility is that it will be the first fire station in the state to be built to Leadership on Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver standards.



Pictured (L to R) are Deputy Fire Chief Rolland Harvest, Director of Hawaiian Home Lands Kaulana Park, Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board Chair Maeda Timson, Senator Will Espero, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, Fire Chief Ken Silva, Rep. Sharon Har, and Senator Mike Gabbard.

Kapolei Land Transfer Key to Completion of Kapolei Parkway

I joined Mayor Mufi Hannemann at a ceremony at Honolulu Hale on July 5th to mark the transfer of 34-acres of land from the James Campbell Company to the City. In exchange for receiving this land, the City has agreed to construct the Kapolei Parkway Extension from D.R. Horton Schuler Homes' Mehana subdivision to the Kapolei Court Complex and to also resurface Kamokila Boulevard. According to the City, the section of Kapolei Parkway will be completed by 2014 and the resurfacing of Kamokila from Ft. Barrette to Costco will start by the end of this year or beginning of next year. *Pictured below from left are KPD President Brad Myers, KPD Senior Vice President Dave Rae, Mayor Mufi Hannemann, James Campbell Company CEO Steve MacMillan, Senator Mike Gabbard, and Makakilo-Kapolei-Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board Chair Maeda Timson.*



Roosevelt Avenue. The short answer is that DOT doesn't have plans to resurface this road. However, they do plan to do some improvements, including patching the potholes. Their crew has been reviewing the roadway since July and will begin work in September.

Kualaka'i Parkway

I've received several complaints about the no-right-on-red turn sign at Kualaka'i Parkway and Farrington Highway. People have wondered why they need to stop and wait at the light when there are no cars coming. We checked with DOT on this one as well and were notified that there are federal highway guidelines that they must comply with, but that they are looking into whether the sign can be taken down.

Kapolei Roadwork on a Roll

Roosevelt Avenue Improvements

A constituent recently contacted me to ask if there were any plans to improve Roosevelt Avenue, because he was noticing a lot of potholes. We checked with the Department of Transportation (DOT) on whether they had plans to resurface



Kapolei Interns Working at the Senate

Brandon and Margaret Taumanupepe of Kapolei have been working in the Senate Clerk's Office at the Capitol this summer. Brandon will be a junior at Kapolei High this fall and his sister, Margaret, will be a freshman. Brandon is a part of the City and County of Honolulu's 2010 Summer Work Opportunity Program and Margaret is participating in the state version of the same program. Both work programs are funded with federal stimulus funds. They both learned valuable work skills this summer and concluded their time at the Capitol on July 30th.



First Wind Kicks Off Project in Kahuku

I had the opportunity to say a few words at the ground breaking ceremony for First Wind's 30 megawatt wind project in Kahuku on July 13th. This will be the only utility-scale wind farm on Oahu and will consist of twelve 2.5 megawatt Clipper Liberty wind turbines. Kahuku Wind will have the capacity to generate enough clean, wind energy to power about 7,700 Oahu homes each year. The construction and maintenance of the facility will bring much needed jobs to the area and locally produced energy will stabilize our power costs.



Sen. Gabbard with UH West Oahu Chancellor Gene Awakuni at Kaheawa Wind Farm on Maui (2009).

First Wind, an independent North American wind energy company focused exclusively on the development, ownership and operation of wind farms, has an impressive track record with renewable energy projects. Not only are they producing 504 megawatts of energy through seven operating wind farms across the U.S., they have made it clear that the environmental and cultural impacts of their projects are their topmost concern.

As the owner and operator of the state's largest wind power facility in Maui, Kaheawa Wind Power, they created an impressive Habitat Conservation Plan that includes research funding and actions to minimize the impact on endangered species. They have also taken responsibility for replanting native flora that was disturbed during construction. Best of all, wind energy produces no air pollution.

Daren Choi Needs your Help

I was recently contacted about a tragic accident that happened to one of our neighbors in Waipio. Daren Choi is a 16-year old avid swimmer who attends Pearl City High School. He fractured several of his vertebrae after falling in Western Samoa a couple of weeks ago on a trip with the Kamehameha Swim Club. After spending time in a hospital in New Zealand, Daren was able to get the okay from his doctors to return home. He's currently at the Rehabilitation Hospital of the Pacific trying to recuperate.

There has been a fund set up to help. Check and cash donations can be made to the "KSC Friends of Daren Choi" at all First Hawaiian Bank branches. You can contact Shannon Cadell at 292-3076 or shcadell@mac.com for more information. This article from the *Honolulu Star Advertiser* gives more details about Daren's ordeal: www.staradvertiser.com/sports/20100718_one_day_at_a_time.html.





Kapolei's Margaret Pascual: 2010 Miss Hawai'i Filipina

Margaret Pascual of Kapolei was crowned the 2010 Miss Oahu Filipina at the Hawai'i Prince Hotel on July 9th and the 2010 Miss Hawai'i Filipina at the Maui Regency Hotel on July 24th. The pageants are sponsored each year by the Oahu Filipino Community Council and the United Filipino Council of Hawai'i.

I had the opportunity to present Margaret with an honorary certificate at the Philippine Consulate on July 18th. She is an exceptional young woman who has made her parents, friends, and the City of Kapolei proud. But what's even better than her success in pageants is her caring heart.

Margaret is the daughter of Dino and Lucy Pascual. She will be a sophomore at UH Manoa this fall and is studying to be a Nurse Practitioner. Her goal is to one day travel to poverty-stricken countries to heal the most needy. She has been the President of the Health Careers Academy and the Health Occupations Students of America organization. She makes an effort to give back to her community as a Youth Leader for Saints Helping With Adults and Youth, as well as being actively involved with Hawai'i Pacific Health, the Filipino Club, and the Leo Club.



Margaret has earned accolades and scholarships based on her excellent academic accomplishments. She was a 2009 United Filipino Council Jubilee Scholar, Summa Cum Laude, and won third place in the Hawai'i State Science and Engineering Fair. Margaret also found time to be the Young Adult Choir Conductor at Saint Jude Church, while enjoying hiking, baking, playing the piano, and spending time with family and friends.

Pictured above are (top row - L to R) Senator Mike Gabbard, Margaret Pascual, Oahu Filipino Community Council President Maria Etrata, Immediate Past President Danny Villaruz, First Vice President Mario Palma, (bottom row - L to R) Davelyn Quijano, Aurea Agas, Jean Jeremiah, Ilalo Parayno, Leo Gozar and Zhoydell Magaoy.

Senator Mike Gabbard participated in the Hot Spots traffic safety sign-waving event sponsored by Farmers Insurance Hawai'i at Kapolei Middle School on the morning of July 23, 2010.



Drive Safe! Please Kokuu!!!

Senator Mike Gabbard