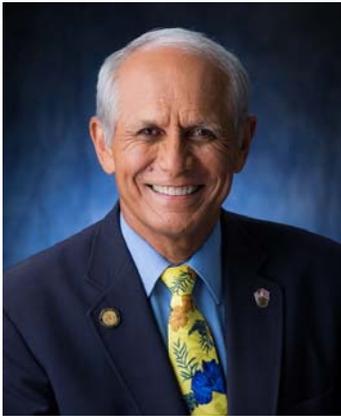




The Senate
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

Senator Mike Gabbard

Legislative update...



Aloha e Friends,

I hope everyone had a nice long weekend. I felt blessed to have our family together at Easter Sunday Mass at St. Jude Church in Makakilo. Last month, I reported that Mililani High school was selected as the next school in the 'Aina Pono Farm to School program. On March 29th, I was invited to say a few words at the logo unveiling. It was great to be there as the Chair of the Senate's Agriculture and Environment Committee (AEN). We're in the thick of things with session right now, so it was a welcome change to get out of the Square Building and see some of the progress being made toward improving school lunches. *(More below...)* Please feel free to contact me at (808)586-6830 or sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me on Twitter @senmikegabbard, Instagram @sengabbard, or Facebook at www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard.

Mike



L-R: Abraham, Narayan, Kimi, Father Joe, Bhakti, Tushi, Carol, Mike, and Pastor, Father Khanh Hoang.

'Aina Pono Farm to School Program

As AEN Chair, I've made it my priority to do all I can to increase food production in our state, to help facilitate the recruitment of new farmers into this noble profession, and to support sustainable agricultural practices. I'm 100% behind what the Lieutenant Governor, Department of Education (DOE), and private partners like Ulupono and Kohala Center have been doing to get the 'Aina Pono Farm to School Program going. On March 29, Lt. Gov. Doug Chin hosted an event to update public and private partners about the program's efforts to provide healthier school lunches for our keiki that are sourced locally, while at the same time, opening up new markets for our farmers. This is truly a win-win. The DOE serves close to 100,000 school lunches a day—which is why it's so important to make sure that they and the Department of Agriculture coordinate as much as possible to grow the 'Aina Pono Program.

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COMMITTEE CHAIR

Agriculture &
Environment

VICE CHAIR

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SENATE DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and
portions of Ewa,
Kalaeloa and Waipahu

Listen Story

My next Listen Story meeting will be held May 5th from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Kapolei High School Teachers' Lounge.

Kapolei Jobs Initiative

Right now, 40% of our Kapolei residents commute into Honolulu each day and we need to change that! House Bill 2659 would create a five-year jobs initiative pilot program that creates tax incentives for businesses to start or open a new location in Kapolei. The region includes areas with zip codes 96706 (Ewa), 96707 (Kapolei) and 96709 (Kapolei). My hope is to provide a solution to reduce traffic and improve the quality of life for so many forced to spend hours driving to work and then back home again. This is the third session I've tried to get this bill passed. Let's hope three's the charm!



First Annual Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, 2018



I had the great honor to introduce and recognize Vietnam-era War Veterans on the First Annual Vietnam War Veterans Day -March 29, 2018, in the Senate Gallery. Special mahalo to Colonel Ron Han for rallying the troops and for all his assistance. I introduced several groups, including Vietnam-era War Veterans who served from 1955-1975 from all branches of the services... Family members in attendance, including Goldstar Families (survivors of those who were killed in action) and families of those who are still missing in action... and members of the 50th Commemoration of the Anniversary of the Vietnam War State Planning Committee, chaired by COL Gene Castagnetti, (USMC, Ret)...who volunteered their services for over three years to put events

On March 29, Sen. Gabbard introduced the Vietnam-era War Veterans during session, on the First Annual Vietnam War Veterans Day.

on welcoming home our Veterans with a Time to Honor Hawaii Edition Book, a recognition dinner, a concert, a parade, a joint ceremony at Punchbowl and corresponding events held on Molokai, Kauai, Lanai, Maui and Hawai'i islands... The Hawaii Senate Majority and guests thank each of you and your families for your service and sacrifice as we pay tribute to our living and fallen Veterans on this, the first of many to come, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, designated on the 29th of March of each year.

Hui O Ho'ohonua (HOH808)

It was my honor and pleasure on March 19, during session, to introduce the **Hui O Ho'ohonua (HOH808)**— a 501c3 non-profit, community-development networking organization, that is restoring the land surrounding Pu'uloa in the Pearl Harbor and neighboring Ewa Moku to once again provide food. *Pu'uloa* refers not just to the many mountains surrounding Pearl Harbor, but to the waters that feed it. 'Ewa is the only moku where the rivers of all twelve of its ahupua'a converge into one place... Pearl Harbor (Pu'uloa). Historically, this area was 'āina momona or abundant land. (Interesting that The Hawaiian concept of 'Āina Momona can be likened to the biblical expression of "land flowing with milk and honey.") Thus, HOH808's vision of a

Pu'uloa as a land plentiful with lo'i (taro), fishponds, and sustainable community gardens, inspires all they do. **Hui O Ho'ohonua** also envisions their efforts as a way to address existing hazards to human health caused by pollution over the last 100 years.... These may seem like challenging tasks to accomplish.... and they are. But would we expect anything less from an organization whose mission statement is "*The Impossible Is Where We Start.*"? Yes, that's their actual Mission Statement. How does one accomplish the impossible? By practicing HOH808's core values, which are: 1.) Maintaining the faith of a child in accomplishing the impossible; 2.) Honoring every citizen with dignity and selfless service; and 3.) Conducting business ethically and professionally with integrity.

DISTRICT NEWS



On March 14 Sen. Gabbard (Pictured L-R: Senator Gabbard, Paige McCurdy, Madeleine McCurdy, Elaine Adams, Samantha Morris, Ravyn Morris, Keeghan Wright.)



On March 19, Sen. Gabbard introduced the HOH808 (Pictured with the Hawai'i State Senate are L-R: Sandy Webb, Chair, Board of Directors; Trey Lima, Project Leader; Carena Phillips, Visual Communications; Heath Todd, Vice President; and Tony Chance, Executive Director.)

Their hard work, determination, and aloha resulted last October in the official re-naming of the former West Loch Shoreline Park to Kapapahu Point Park, serving to initiate the healing process caused by years of sacred site desecration. HOH808's work at Kapapahu includes restoration of the park's entire shoreline area, its wahi pana (sacred sites), and the three Apokeo fishponds. These sites will be used to educate the community of the cultural importance of the fishponds and the wahi pana, and the impact their restoration will have on future generations.

Kapolei High School Walk Out

On March 14, I was invited to speak at the *Kapolei High School Walk Out*, by organizers: Madeleine and Paige McCurdy, 9th grade twins at KHS. It's been over a month since the tragic shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, and the entire nation has shared in the sadness and heart-break of the 17 lives lost that day. The walk out was a way to gather together and continue to extend our sincerest aloha to the victims' families, friends, and loved ones as they go through the healing process... Over 2,850 schools across the country staged similar walkouts to memorialize and reflect upon what happened at the Florida high school. The walkouts began at 10:00 a.m. and lasted 17 minutes—one minute for each of the 17 victims. While the walkouts were designed to remember and honor the victims of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High, they were also calling for

an end to school violence, recognizing that everyone—students, teachers, staff, families, and communities—can be affected by it. The events were also about hearing the voices of our nation's youth loud and clear. I always like to speak to young people about getting involved in the process, not being apathetic, and doing what they can to try to make a difference. As I looked at the over 1,800 KHS students in the football stadium bleachers who showed up, I was proud to see so many supporting the search to solve this very serious problem. I told the students, "The solution is not simple. There's a national conversation happening among elected officials, school districts, faith communities, businesses, the military, and yes, even our youth. The most important ingredient in this national conversation is aloha... compassion, kindness

and mutual respect for each other." I then asked the students to take two action steps: 1). "Get involved in the process...if you're 16 or older, register to vote, and when you turn 18, vote. Hawai'i has the lowest voter turnout in the U.S. If you don't think the county, state, or federal elected official is doing a good job, do the research, look at all the candidates. If you don't like any of them, run for office yourself; and 2). Remember that each hello and smile you give to others in the hallway, making friends with people you may notice are struggling with school or family problems, and looking out for each other...are acts of aloha that are so vitally important."

Windward Zero Waste Hui



On March 29, Sen. Gabbard introduced the Windward Zero Waste Hui (Pictured L-R: Sen. Laura Thielen; Heather, Parent Volunteer and Site Leader; Mindy Jaffe, Hui Coordinator, and Sen. Gabbard.)

Here's a question you may not have pondered before...how many tons of food waste do you think three elementary schools can generate in a year? A ton? Two tons? How about over 31 tons?!! I had the pleasure of honoring The Windward Zero Waste Hui on the Senate Floor March 9, which was the perfect culmination to a site visit I went on this past November to learn more about “zero waste.” The Hui is made up of three schools: [Ka'ōhao School: A Public Charter School, K-6](#), [Kaelepulu Elementary School](#), and [Kainalu Elementary School](#), who are 100% dedicated to food waste recovery and food security. In fact, the 2017 food waste recovery total among all three schools was 63,400 pounds. That means that over 31 tons of food waste not dumped into our landfill. So, you may ask.... **what happens to all the waste?** Well, instead of lecturing and testing students on food waste recovery and food security, these schools are actually involving their keiki in a hands-on approach to every step of recycling food, paper, and cardboard waste. At Kainalu, after gathering the food waste from lunch, the students moved it to an outdoor area where the food scraps were weighed, recorded and then transported a couple hundred yards by a parent volunteer driving a golf cart to be dumped and mixed into hot compost piles surrounding the school's organic gardens. After being layered with soil and green waste and watered, the leftover food—which would normally create a

smelly mess, adding to our landfills—is left to “cook” for 6 months. The Hui schools also built and maintain vermicast bins where worms work hard to process food scraps, along with paper and cardboard waste. The result? Soft, sweet-smelling soil that will nourish the school garden. And yes, the students plant, maintain, and harvest that as well! How successful is the Windward Zero Waste School Hui? For the students, this is a way of life now, and they in turn have the potential to grow a healthier future society. Think about this: If all of O'ahu's 292 public elementary schools adopted this protocol for dealing with food waste, it's estimated the annual dumpster diversion would be 7,491,820 pounds; over 8,990 cubic yards of rich compost would be produced; and 236 green jobs would be created to implement the program. The Hui program is actively changing the mindset of the next generation to one where there is no waste, where everything can be reused, and growing your own food is fun (and 'ono)!



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to the Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center on March 10, to celebrate the grand opening and blessing of the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Emergency Medical Services Building.

Upcoming Community Events!

April 6—Art at the Capitol, 5-7pm, Hawai'i State Capitol and room 201.

April 14—Villages of Kapolei, Third Annual Spring Fair, 9 am-2pm, 91-111 Kamaaha Loop.

April 28 —Feral Feline Fix (Trap-Neuter-Return), 8 am, Barber's Point Bowling Center.

May 5—Sen. Gabbard's Listen Story, 9-10am, Kapolei High School Teachers Lounge.