



Aloha e Friends,

In case you've had your head buried in the sand and missed the inundation of candidate debates, political ads, campaign signs, and sign-waving--the 2018 election is upon us and is heating up every second. While I'm not up for re-election this time around, there were many other important races that will be decided in the coming months. Hawai'i has the lowest election turnout in the nation...wouldn't it be cool to go from worst to best in 2018? It's up to you... As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [segabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:segabbard@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 <https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard>

**COMMITTEE CHAIR-**  
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**DISTRICT 20**

**Kapolei, Makakilo and  
portions of Ewa,  
Kalaeloa and Waipahu**

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Senate Special Session

I participated as a member of the Judiciary Committee in a Senate Special Session to confirm four judges on July 9 and 10. The votes for each nominee were unanimous. Here's a quick overview of the judges.

**Kristine Y. Yoo** - District Court of the First Circuit (O'ahu) - has been a Deputy Prosecuting Attorney in Honolulu, where she has 14 years of experience

**Kenneth J. Shimozone** - District Family Court of the First Circuit (O'ahu) - has been practicing criminal defense law as a partner in the law firm of Takemoto & Shimozone, LLC. since 2005. He has also served as a per diem judge in the District Family Court of the First Circuit.

**Mahilani E.K. Hiatt** - District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Hawai'i Island) – has been a partner at Hiatt & Hiatt, where she concentrates on commercial litigation and employment law. She has also served as a per diem judge in the District and District Family Courts of the Third Circuit.

**Wendy M. DeWeese** - District Family Court of the Third Circuit (Hawai'i Island)-has been a Deputy Public Defender in Kealahou for the past 11 years.



**Sen. Gabbard participated as a member of the Judiciary Committee in a Senate Special Session to confirm four judges on July 9 and 10. (Pictured are the Hawai'i State Senate and Judges Mahilani E. K. Hiatt, Wendy M. DeWeese, Kenneth J. Shimozone, and Kristine Y. Yoo.)**

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR UPCOMING ELECTIONS!

- Early Walk-In Voting/Late Registration: July 30 - August 9, 2018
- Mail Ballot Request Deadline: August 4, 2018
- Primary Election: August 11, 2018
- General Election: November 6, 2018

For more information, visit the **Office of Elections** website: <https://elections.hawaii.gov/>



# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Waipahu Tower Blessing and Rededication

I gave a short speech and presented an Honorary Certificate at the Hawaiian Blessing and Rededication Ceremony for the Ahe Group's \$17.7 million acquisition and rehabilitation of Waipahu Tower on July 19. Built in 1972, the 64 unit apartment complex (62 affordable, 1 market rate and 1 managers unit), was acquired by Ahe Group in 2017. Ahe has committed to maintain these units as affordable rentals for the next 61 years.



Rep. Henry Aquino and Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate at the Waipahu Tower Blessing on July 19 to Makani Maeva, President and CEO Ahe Group.

Waipahu Tower is located in the heart of Waipahu town at 94-337 Pupumomi Street off Farrington Highway. The \$6.5 million rehabilitation of Waipahu Tower includes the construction of a new, community building with an office for the onsite manager and meeting space for residents. Ahe Group also installed a 148 kW photovoltaic system over the second floor parking deck that will help to offset the cost of utilities for the residents and reduce Hawai'i's dependence on fossil fuels. Unit renovations included increasing the living space of each apartment by enclosing all of the lanai balconies. Units were also painted, fitted with brand new kitchen cabinets and countertops, energy efficient appliances, bathroom fixtures and new flooring. In addition to the new community building, common area improvements included a new elevator, lighting, fire safety and ADA upgrades, a new roof and exterior painting, as well as landscaping, signage and security cameras. The general contractor for the project was Unlimited Construction.

## Special Olympics Hawai'i Sports and Fitness Complex Kapolei

I was stoked to get a letter from Governor Ige on July 12 notifying me that he had released \$300,000 for the construction of Phase 2 of the Special Olympics Hawai'i Sports and

Fitness Complex Kapolei. The Complex will be an \$11 million sports and wellness center to serve adults and children with intellectual disabilities. It will be located next to the Kroc Center in Kapolei and will offer sports training, volunteer training, coaches education, as well as free physical exams, hearing, vision, dental and podiatry screening, and nutrition education. Construction is scheduled to begin by the end of 2018. By the way, 2018 is the 50th anniversary of the Special Olympics movement!

## Kahi Mohala Playground Blessing

I attended the Sutter Health Kahi Mohala Playground Blessing on Old Fort Weaver Road in Ewa Beach on July 16. Sutter Health Kahi Mohala is Hawai'i's only not-for-profit psychiatric hospital with a focus on children and adolescents. Since 1983, Kahi Mohala has provided treatment to people in need through innovative, quality and effective behavioral health services. The new playground was funded by a \$125,000 grant from the City and County of Honolulu which allowed Kahi to replace aging equipment that had been removed in 2016. The new ADA-compliant playground includes ground protective surfacing and ample shade to ensure keiki have a safe environment for outdoor recreation.



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Leonard Licina-Kahi Mohala CEO and Quin Agawa-Kahi Mohala CFO at the Sutter Health Kahi Mohala Playground Blessing on July 16.



Sen. Gabbard attended the Mehana Neighborhood Park Grand Opening on July 16. (Pictured with Rep. Sharon Har; Mayor Kirk Caldwell; Bob Bruhl, Pres. D.R. Horton; and Rep. Ty Cullen.)

# FARM SITE VISITS

*As the Chair of Agriculture & Environment, Senator Gabbard uses the "Interim" (the 7 month period of time before the new legislative session begins and the previous one ends) for his annual travel across the state, visiting farms and talking story with local farmers to learn more about Hawai'i agriculture.*

## Honaunau Farm and Wellness Retreat

I had the pleasure of visiting Honaunau Farm and Wellness Retreat on Hawai'i Island on June 27. It's owned by Steve Sakala and his wife, Melinda and is located on 7.5 acres of land in the foothills of Mauna Loa Volcano. Honaunau Farm and Wellness Retreat offers wellness retreats and wellness services, regenerative agriculture/permaculture education opportunities and packages, and guest accommodations. A CBD variety of industrial hemp grows on 1/8 acres of that land. They also grow a variety of fruit trees, including a large ulu tree, 16 different bananas, plantains, cherimoya, papaya, lychee, loquat, jaboticaba, tree tomato, soursop, a handful of avocado and coconut trees, and over 150 macadamia nut trees.



**On June 27, Sen. Gabbard toured Honaunau Farm & Wellness Retreat on Hawai'i Island, and met with owner Steve Sakala.**

In addition, they have sugar cane, bamboo, a taro patch, sweet potato and kabocha patches, turmeric beds, lilikoi vines, tulsii, and veggie gardens. Their animals include laying hens, ducks, milking sheep and goats, and two pet dogs and kittens.



**Sen. Gabbard visited Nature's Path Organic Foods CEO, Arran Stephens, at his home and organic permaculture farm Mana Ohana Kai Orchard in Makena, Maui on June 19 and planted a Wili-wili sapling. Also pictured is Tim Page, manager of the farm.**



**Sen. Gabbard toured Aloun Farms on June 12 and met with co-owners Alec (pictured) and Mike Sou to talk story about hemp and other ag issues.**



**Sen. Gabbard toured Haleakala Creamery in Kula, Maui on June 19. The farm is owned by Rebecca Woodburn-Rist (pictured) and was founded in 2011 with one goat. They now have 25! Haleakala Creamery specializes in handcrafted small-batch goat and cow milk, caramel sauces, ice cream, and sweets.**



# HONORARY CERTIFICATES

## Chuck Larson's Retirement Party



Sen. Gabbard and Rep. Har presented an Honorary Certificate to Chuck Larson on July 14.

Rep. Sharon Har and I presented Seagull School founder and CEO, Chuck Larson, with a surprise Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature at his Retirement Party at Lanikuhonua in Ko Olina on July 14. Chuck is also the executive director of Seagull Schools, which has facilities in Honolulu, Kailua, Kapolei, Ko Olina, Ocean Pointe, and at the Mauna Lani Resort on Hawai'i Island. The mission of Seagull Schools is

to respond to the early educational needs of Hawai'i's diverse community by providing early education programs of the highest value. All of the Seagull Schools are nationally accredited and have lower child-to-staff ratios than almost any other center. In 2012, Seagull Schools was one of only 16 childcare centers nationally to be recognized by then-first lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign for promoting healthy lifestyles for children. All of the campuses are Blue Zones Project-certified as environments for healthy living. The Seagull School at Kapolei also provides adult day services for frail older adults or persons with disabilities. A unique curriculum has been developed where children and seniors come together for their mutual benefit. Mahalo to Chuck for his many years of dedicated service to the young keiki and kupuna of our communities. His efforts to help our keiki get off to a great start, in a nurturing and healthy environment, so that they can be themselves and soar, will never be forgotten!

## Honoring Malia Smith

I paid tribute to Malia Smith, founder/owner of a fantastic vegan restaurant in Waimanalo, Ai Love Nalo, at the Vegetarian Society of Hawai'i Dine-Out at Down to Earth Hawai'i in Kaka'ako on July 11. Malia is Board President of Sustain Hawai'i and President of Sustainable Ideation, LLC. A local girl, who grew up in Nanakuli and now calls Waimanalo home, Malia began with a goal to serve up local, organic, healthy, and tasty meals, while supporting local farmers who practice sustainable farming methods. Her non-profit Wellness Center was created to help Native Hawaiians eat more healthy and develop healthier lifestyles. Malia believes in "Food Sovereignty," an approach to health and



Sen. Gabbard presented a surprise Honorary Certificate to Malia Smith on July 11. (Pictured with her husband, Kevin Vaccarello.)

wellness that provides a unique perspective through its culturally systemic approach which takes into account the environment, local food production and the importance of nutrients, while integrating the values of social justice and equity.

## Pineapple Crate Grand Opening

It was great to participate in the Grand Opening of the Pineapple Crate on July 7 in Wahiawa. The Pineapple Crate is a co-working space designed to provide technological support for both industries and farmers proactively seeking solutions to their current and potential problems regarding food safety. As farm production increases in Central O'ahu, the Pineapple Crate's role is to spur collaboration between farmers and tech developers for ag-tech applications. As the Agriculture and Environmental Committee Chair, trying to address the problem of agricultural theft and vandalism has been a big priority of mine. This past session we got close to putting some funding toward an agricultural theft and vandalism pilot program and I'll be looking at this again for the 2019 session. I learned the Pineapple Crate is looking to tackle this issue head-on with the use of sensors to help protect farmers' crops and equipment. Mahalo to the Whitmore Economic Development Group and my colleague Senator Dela Cruz for having the vision to make this a reality.



Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz and Senator Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to (Left) Damien Morales—President of Whitmore Economic Development Group and (Right) Brandon Aske—Director of the Pineapple Crate at their Grand Opening July 7.