

Aloha e Friends,

Whew 🤦🏻 that was a close one! We here on O’ahu were very fortunate to escape the wrath of Hurricane Lane. However, the people of Hawai’i Island weren’t so lucky. Amazingly, Mountain View received a record 52.02 inches of rain from 8am on August 22 to 8am on August 26. My prayers and thoughts are with Big Island folks and also those on Maui who were impacted by the Hurricane Lane-related wildfires. It’s important that we do all we can to stay prepared for hurricanes, because hurricane season doesn’t end until November. I hope to see you at the 8th Annual Get Ready Ewa Beach Emergency Preparedness Fair, which will take place at Ewa Mahiko District Park on September 8 from 9am to 1pm.

A big shout-out to Little League World Series Champs, Honolulu! They did Hawai’i proud by defeating South Korea 3-0 on

September 26.

As always, 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

COMMITTEE CHAIR
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

VICE CHAIR
Water and Land
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Judiciary

DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

Upcoming Town Hall Meetings

Instead of my Listen Story meeting, I’ll be co-sponsoring two upcoming Town Hall meetings. Here are the details at this point. I’ll include more information in next month’s newsletter.

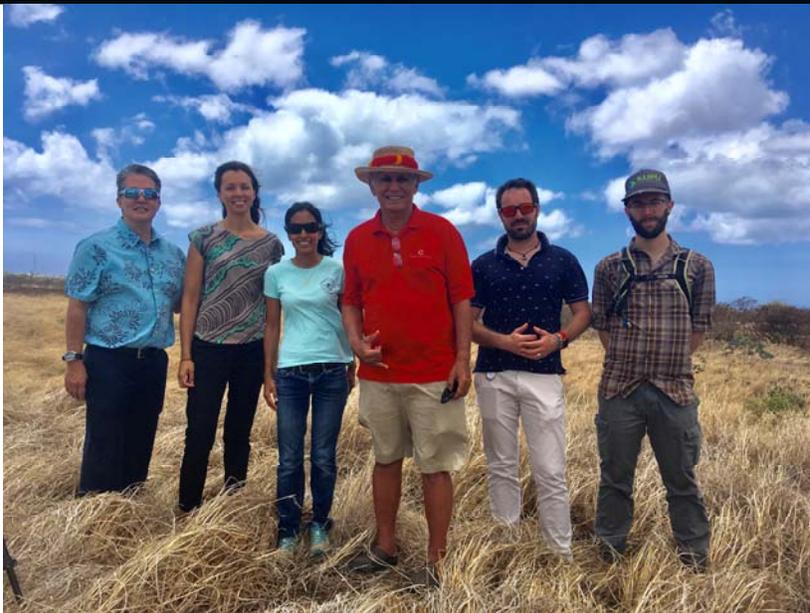
West O’ahu Energy & Electric Vehicle Fair with Senator Jon Yoshimura – on October 13 from 10am – 1pm at the Ewa Makai Middle School Cafeteria.

West O’ahu Town Hall Meeting with Councilmember Kym Pine – on October 18 from 6:30pm – 8pm at Island Pacific Academy Multi-purpose Room.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Pueo Site Visit

I went on a site visit with scientists and researchers from the UH’s Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Management and the state Department of Land & Natural Resources at UH West O’ahu on August 21. The purpose of the visit was to get an update on efforts to research and protect the pueo owl in our state. The good news is that UH has secured \$150,000 to do additional studies on the pueo, including a Navy-led project in Lualualei Valley, Wai’anae and a USDA grant to study the effectiveness of pueo as biocontrol agents. I also plan to reintroduce legislation in 2019 to dedicate state funding for pueo breeding and foraging studies.



(Pictured with Kevin Ishida, Vice Chancellor for UHWO Administration; Dr. Melissa Price, Asst. Professor CTHAR; Afsheen Siddiqui, DLNR, Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Sen. Gabbard, Dr. Javier Cotin, Postdoctoral Researcher, CTHAR; and Kyle Davis, Intern.)



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Tour of UH West O'ahu Allied Health & Administrative Building

I went on a tour of the UH West O'ahu Allied Health Building on August 31. A Groundbreaking Ceremony for the facility was held November 28, 2016. The building will house programs such as allied health, community health, health information management, long-term care, and biology.

The 43,000-square foot building will contain administrative offices, faculty offices, classrooms, and lab spaces. It will be the sixth building on the campus. About eight new faculty members will be hired to teach the Allied Health concentrations, which include community health, health information management, and occupational therapy.

Students will also take classes to complete public administration degrees with concentrations in justice, healthcare, and disaster preparedness and emergency management. The State Legislature appropriated \$36.7 million for the project and the building is scheduled to open October 27 for the administration and Spring 2019 for students.

National Drive Electric Week

I participated in an interview for Hawai'i News Now's Lifestyle Program for National Drive Electric Week at HECO's Fast Electric Charging Station next to Ruby Tuesday's at Kapolei Commons on August 27. National Drive Week will be September 8-16 and is a nationwide celebration to heighten awareness of today's widespread availability of plug-in vehicles and highlight the benefits of all-electric and plug-in hybrid-electric cars, trucks, and motorcycles.

As background, I served as the Chair of the Senate's Energy and Environment Committee from 2009 to 2015. During this time, we were ramping up our efforts to switch to a clean energy economy. So in April 2011, I purchased an all-electric Nissan Leaf because I thought it made sense for the ENE Chair to "walk the talk."

Just a year later in 2012, there were 751 electric vehicles in our state. However, I'm pleased to say that we continue to make progress and as of July 2018, there are 7,497 EVs and close to 600 EV charging stations across the state. That makes us 4th in the country behind California, Washington, and Oregon in per capita EV ownership.

And, BTW, my Leaf has 80K miles and runs like a charm. Though if my kids bought me a Tesla Model X, or even better a Porsche Taycan, I'd gladly add their names back to my last will and testament. Just sayin'!



Sen. Gabbard participated in an Ulupono Initiative educational event and HNN interview on Aug. 27. (Pictured L-R: Amy Hennessey, Ulupono Communications Director; Sen. Gabbard; Kanoe Gibson, Reporter HNN; and Brennon Morioka, GM of Electrification of Transportation for HECO.)



Sen. Mike and Carol Gabbard celebrated the one-year anniversary of Dogs Of War Airsoft Park and Proshop, which opened near their home in Kapolei on Aug. 19, 2017. (Pictured L-R: CEO G. Anthony Quiniola, Sen. Mike and Carol Gabbard; and Marketing Exec. and founding member, Braden Cox.)



Diana Sellner, Marketing and Communications Coordinator for the AED Institute of America met with Sen. Gabbard and his staff on Aug. 28 to help educate us on the urgency of learning CPR! Here, Sen. Gabbard practices his new CPR skills.

COMMUNITY UPDATES



Sen. Gabbard visited a series of locations on the Windward side on Aug. 16 as part of a site visit tour arranged by the Committee on Ways and Means. The Senator and his colleagues, along with several staff members visited and learned about the UH CTAHR Extension, the Waimanalo Health Center, the Women's Community Correctional Center, and the Hawaii Youth Correctional Facility (Pictured in front of the new Waimanalo Health center facility, which is being built are L-R: Senators Laura Thielen; WAM chair, Donovan Dela Cruz; Mary Frances Oneha, APRN, PhD, Chief Executive Officer, Waimanalo Health Center; Kai Kahele; Mike Gabbard; Glenn Wakai; and Clarence Nishihara.)

Be a Meals on Wheels Volunteer

Hawai'i Meals on Wheels delivers hot meals to homebound kupuna and the disabled. Last year, they delivered 88,000 meals across O'ahu. At the August Ewa Neighborhood Board meeting, representatives from Meals on Wheels made a presentation on the need to recruit volunteers in our community to make meal deliveries. If you would like to explore this opportunity, please contact Brad Akamu, their Volunteer Coordinator (808)784-2756 or brad@hmow.org. You can also get more information by checking out their website: hmow.org

Mauka Lani Elementary Funtastic Carnival!

Mauka Lani Elementary School in Makakilo is hosting its Funtastic Carnival! on September 8th from 4pm – 8:30pm. The event is open to the public and will include rides from Xtreme Fun Rentals. Wristbands will be available at the event for \$22 and allow for unlimited access to all the rides, including inflatables. Single Xtreme Fun Ride tickets or Mauka Lani Food and Game tickets will also be available for \$1 each. Only cash will be accepted. For more information, please call (808)305-8800.

Pop-Up Legal Clinic in Waipahu

I met with Angela Kuo Min, Executive Director, and Grant Teichman, the Volunteer Coordinator, of Volunteer Legal Services of Hawai'i (VLSH), on August 28. I got information

about their Legal Pop-Up Clinic that's taking place on September 15 from 9am – 12pm at the FilCom Center Ballroom in Waipahu. VLSH is a non-profit legal service organization, established in 1981, that provides legal assistance to the community through education, legal advice clinics, brief services, and referrals to pro bono attorneys for direct representation. The Pop-Up Legal Clinic is free to all low and moderate income individuals. Volunteer attorneys will be available to meet with area residents to provide legal advice on cases involving family law, estate planning, bankruptcy, District Court, and veteran benefits. In order to see if you qualify and to reserve your spot, please call (808) 528-7046 by September 7.



Senator Mike and Carol Gabbard attended the Vegetarian Society of Hawaii Lecture on August 14 at the Ala Wai Golf Course Club House on the "Impact of Nutrition on Alzheimer's" by Drs. Dean & Ayesha Sherzai, MD.



Sen. Gabbard met with the RiceUp for Filipino Farmers Student Group on Aug. 15, at the Kapolei The Coffee Bean and Tealeaf to talk about the future of farming in Hawai'i and how they can get more involved. (Pictured L-R: Zenos Thoreson, Joan Rey, Ruth Alvarado, Princess Donato, Sen. Gabbard, Kimball Heaton, Sean Somoray, and Roche Donato.)

HONORARY CERTIFICATES



Sen. Gabbard presented an Honorary Certificate to Dr. Marcus Eriksen, scientist and ocean plastics pollution critic, at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel on Aug. 29. (Pictured L-R: Rep. Chris Lee, Homeschooler Dyson Chee, Island Pacific Academy Senior Annie Uesugi, Marcus Eriksen, and Sen. Gabbard.)

Screening of "Junk Raft" Documentary

I presented an Honorary Certificate to Marcus Eriksen at the screening of his new documentary "Junk Raft" at the Royal Hawaiian Resort on August 29. Marcus is respected as a scientist, researcher, environmentalist, sailor, writer, artist, and advocate. He is perhaps best known for constructing a boat called JUNK entirely out of single-use plastic bottles and sailing it 2,600 miles across the Pacific in an effort to save our seas from plastic pollution. In 2000, Dr. Eriksen traveled to Midway Atoll and saw first-hand the devastating impact of plastics on the Laysan Albatross. He received his Ph.D. in Science Education from the University of Southern California in 2003 and shortly afterwards took a 2,000-mile, 5-month journey down the Mississippi River on a homemade raft of plastic bottles. In 2007, Dr. Eriksen published *My River Home*, which chronicled his Mississippi River experience paralleled with his deployment as a Marine in the 1991 Gulf War. His second book, titled *JUNK RAFT: An oceanic voyage and the rising tide of activism to fight plastic pollution*, was published in 2017. It tells the story of how plastic pollution at sea was discovered, the impact on people and the planet, and the growing movement to solve the problem through zero waste initiatives in the largest cities worldwide. Dr. Eriksen is the Research Director and co-founder of the 5 Gyres Institute, the organization he co-founded with his wife Anna Cummins. 5 Gyres is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization in special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council since 2017. Their mission is to empower action against the global health crisis of plastic pollution through science, education, and adventure. Mahalo nui loa to Marcus for teaching the world how we can save our seas and ourselves.

Honoring Samoan Flag Day

I presented an Honorary Certificate at the Annual Samoan Flag Day Celebration at Keehi Lagoon Beach Park on August 18. This event honors the Samoan culture through community gatherings and traditional cultural activities. Samoan Flag Day commemorates the first raising of the American Flag in American Samoa. This year's celebration was organized by Moemoe o Faiga Nu'u A Tamali'i ma Failauga o Samoa I Hawaii Nei, an organization focused on the enrichment of the Samoan culture. The vision of this organization is to provide a supportive, inclusive community for Samoans to celebrate their heritage and to educate the public about the Samoan culture, while promoting peace and harmony not only among Samoans, but with other cultures as well. The theme of this year's Samoan Flag Day was "O le tele o lima e mama ai se avega," which translates as "helping hands will ease the burden." The Fa'a-Samoa is a guideline for every Samoan on how to lead their lives by embracing their culture and environment. An integral part of this practice is family and community coming together to pitch in and to be of service to one another, hence, "o le tele o lima e mama ai se avega."



Sen. Gabbard met with Lani Bergstrom; homeschool student, Dyson Chee; his mother, Mio Chee; and Island Pacific Academy student, Annie Uesugi, on Aug. 14 in his office to discuss solutions to plastic pollution. Here Dyson and Annie are pictured at the Royal Hawaiian Hotel where Sen. Gabbard invited them to share the stage with him during his presentation to Dr. Eriksen.