

Aloha e Friends,

I hope you and your 'ohana are doing well! The 2018 General Election is just around the corner on November 6th and our Office of Elections needs volunteers to help staff the polling places, deliver election equipment & ballots, and answer telephone inquiries. Polls will be open from 7am to 6pm that day. This is a good opportunity to do some public service and also earn some money--\$50 to \$95. You need to be at least 16-years-old by June 30, 2018, registered to vote in Hawai'i, and able to read & write English. To sign-up, call 453-VOTE or email: [elections@hawaii.gov](mailto:elections@hawaii.gov). Let's work together to make sure this Election goes well and we have a good turnout!

As always, please feel free to contact me at (808) 586-6830 or [sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov) if I can help you or your family in any way. You can also follow me

on Twitter [@senmikegabbard](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard](https://www.facebook.com/senmikegabbard)



**COMMITTEE CHAIR**  
**AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**VICE CHAIR**

**Water and Land**

**MEMBER**

**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 some quick details:

**West O'ahu Energy & Electric Vehicle Fair with Senators Jon Yoshimura and Glenn Wakai—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.**

I hope you can join us!



## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### Goa Sister-State Agreement Signing Ceremony

I participated in a signing ceremony for the Sister-State Agreement between Goa, a state in India, and Hawai'i at Governor Ige's residence, Washington Place, on September 28. This is Hawai'i's first sister-state relationship with a jurisdiction in India. Goa has many similarities with Hawai'i in that it has a tropical climate, a vibrant tourism industry, and a laid-back lifestyle. Goa is located within the coastal region known as the Konkan in Western India. It has a population of 1.4 million and was liberated from Portuguese rule in 1961. Goa has the highest Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita among all Indian states.

My daughter, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, visited Goa in December 2014 and has been working to make this agreement happen since that time.

In 2015, I introduced SCR 78 to establish this Sister-State Agreement, but the resolution didn't pass the House. The next year in 2016, Senator Brian Taniguchi introduced a very similar resolution, SCR 20, which passed both the Senate and House and initiated this formal process. The purpose of the agreement is to foster economic, cultural, and educational exchange between the two states.



Pictured L-R: Swami Acharya Arumuganathaswami (from Kaua'i Hindu Monastery), Dr. Raj Kumar (President of Indian-America Friendship Council-Hawai'i chapter and Gandhi International Institute for Peace), Vidya Gurudas Pilarnekar, Gurudas P. Pilarnekar (Indian Director of Art & Culture-Goa state government), Pradeep Naik (Indian Official of Directorate of Art & Culture-Goa state government), Sen. Mike Gabbard, and Paramacharya Sadasivathaswami Palaniswami.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES

## Hawai'i Ulu Producers Cooperative Tour

I led a legislative tour of the Hawai'i 'Ulu Producers Cooperative (HUPC) processing facility and two member farms, Mala Kalu'ulu and Keokea Farms, in Kona on September 27 to learn more about their work supporting 'ulu (breadfruit) production in Hawai'i. HUPC is a local, farmer-owned business whose primary goal is to develop a sustainable breadfruit industry in Hawai'i that supports farmers and the community. It was formed in the summer of 2016 with nine pilot farmer-members from all around Hawai'i Island and now has over 50 members statewide. HUPC is the first and largest breadfruit farmer organization in Hawai'i and is pioneering the development of the burgeoning breadfruit industry globally. HUPC purchases fruit directly from farmers and then aggregates, processes, and markets 'ulu for local consumers. Their main product line consists of steamed-frozen cuts sold primarily to food service establishments, including local schools and hospitals. They also offer ongoing technical assistance and training opportunities to support their farmer-members and help grow a sustainable 'ulu industry for Hawai'i. BTW, lunch included poke, mousse, sourdough bread, and hummus all made from 'ulu...ono grinds 😊! In 2018, I introduced SB 2069 to appropriate \$650,000 to the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources for the research, development, marketing, and conservation of 'ulu. The bill didn't make it to the finish line, but I'm looking to revisit this legislation in 2019.



Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard, Dana Shapiro, Hawai'i Ulu Producers' Cooperative Manager and Rep. Richard Creagan, Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture.

## Hawai'i Constitutional Convention

I wanted to make sure you were aware of a question that will be on the November 6<sup>th</sup> General Election Ballot. Every 10 years, our state constitution, which was ratified in 1959 when we became a state, requires that a question be put on the ballot on whether or not voters want a Constitutional Convention held. The exact question that will be on the November ballot will be: "Do you think there should be a Constitutional Convention to consider other ways in which the Constitution might be changed?" A ConCon, its abbreviated name, allows constitutional amendments to be proposed. One amendment that's been discussed is having term limits for legislators, like myself. There've been two Constitutional Conventions held since statehood: 1968 and 1978. Here are some interesting facts about the ConCon:

- The Legislative Reference Bureau was asked to study the cost of having a ConCon, and it estimated that (in 2012 dollars) the cost of a ConCon could range from approximately \$7.5 million to \$48.8 million dollars
- On December 11, 2017, Civil Beat announced a poll that 67% of Hawaii voters think it's time for a new constitutional convention
- On May 25, 2018, Civil Beat announced a poll that 54% of Hawaii voters want a constitutional convention
- The ConCon vote in 2008 was 33.5% YES, 34.1% YES in 1998, 44.4% YES in 1996, and 44.5% YES in 1986
- By the way, blank votes on a ballot count as No votes
- If the public supports, a ConCon, this is how it will proceed:
  - November 6, 2018 - popular vote on whether to call a convention
  - Spring 2020 – popular vote to elect convention delegates
  - November 3, 2020 – popular vote on each convention proposal

I hope you'll vote on the ConCon question in 2018 and follow this important issue as the process unfolds.

## Hawai'i Youth Sustainability Challenge

Kupu and Kokua Hawai'i Foundation are hosting the third annual Hawai'i Youth Sustainability Challenge. They are inviting West O'ahu middle and high school students interested in creating more sustainable communities to apply for mini-grants between \$150 to \$1,000 to support student-led initiatives. The application deadline is October 19 and the grant recipients will be selected in November. The projects must be completed by the end of the school year. For more information and to apply, please visit

[kupuhawaii.org/hysc](http://kupuhawaii.org/hysc).

# COMMUNITY UPDATES



## UH West O'ahu Scholarship Awards Luncheon

I attended and spoke at the 2nd Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon at UHWO on September 14. In 1976, the first permanently endowed scholarship was created at the UH Foundation to benefit students attending UH. Since then, providing access to higher education through private gifts has become a tradition. Today, the Foundation manages more than 1,650 scholarship accounts. Last year, the UH Foundation distributed more than \$20 million in student aid to students at all ten UH campuses. The purpose of the luncheon was to acknowledge scholarship donors and celebrate their generosity and partnership with UHWO. This special event provided the 120 scholarship recipients an opportunity to personally thank those responsible for their scholarships. These donors are making a tremendous impact in the lives of our students and their families.

## Kulana Hale Groundbreaking



Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard, Rep. Sharon Har, Gov. David Ige.

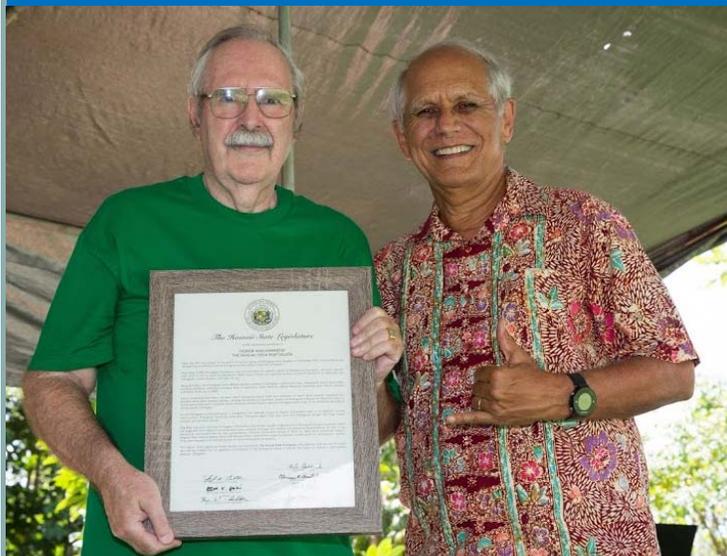
OK, seniors...here's some great news! I spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for Kulana Hale in Kapolei on September 20 at Wakea Street in Kapolei across from Island Pacific Academy. The project is a 13-story high rise

with approx. 7,500 sq. ft. of commercial space, which will be built in three phases. The first phase will be a \$64 million affordable mixed-use project with 154 senior apts. The developers of the project are Highridge Costa Companies and Coastal Rim Properties. The apartments for seniors will be reserved for individuals 55 and older who earn no more than \$49,020 for a single person or \$55,980 for a couple. Maximum monthly rents for about 100 one-bedroom units would be \$1,131. Maximum rents for 22 studios would range from \$528 to \$968. The project also will have about 20 units with two bedrooms that could rent for up to \$1,357 a month. The first phase of the project will be completed by early 2020.



Sen. Gabbard was invited to speak at the Hawai'i Tropical Fruit Growers (HTFG) Conference Sept. 21, at Leeward Community College, where he presented Executive Director, Ken Love and President, Mark Suiso with an Honorary Certificate.

# HONORARY CERTIFICATES



Pictured with Dan Nelson, President, Hawai'i Council on Portuguese Heritage .

## Annual Festa Portuguesa

I participated in the Annual Festa Portuguesa at the Waipahu Plantation Village on September 22. This event marked the 140th anniversary of the arrival of the first group of Portuguese immigrants to Hawai'i from Madeira in September 1878. More than 16,000 Portuguese immigrants, many of them from the offshore islands of Madeira and the Azores, arrived in Hawai'i from 1878 to 1911 to work the plantations. While many Chinese and Japanese workers arrived in the islands as single men, the Portuguese came as families, with plans to stay.

Upon completing their labor contracts, many Portuguese started their own businesses or farms. Some opened restaurants and bakeries while others became paniolo, working the ranches on horseback. Today, the Portuguese influence on Hawaiian culture is found everywhere from restaurant menus featuring comfort food to favorite Portuguese bean soup, to the distinctive plucking of the Hawaiian steel guitar. As the Portuguese community grew, it strengthened the Catholic Church in Hawai'i and loaned many of its traditions to local island culture.

Portuguese foods like malassadas, Portuguese Bean Soup, pao doce, and Portuguese Sausage Hot Dogs remain popular with all ethnic groups. Arguably, the most important Portuguese contribution may be the 'ukulele. Adapted from a Portuguese stringed instrument called the braguinha from Madeira or cavaquinho from mainland Portugal, the 'ukulele was played by King Kalakaua. I commend and celebrate the contributions of the Portuguese to the culture of Hawai'i.

## Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Kaihepono K. Saizon

I presented an Honorary Certificate to Kaihepono "Pono" K. Saizon in recognition of his Eagle Scout Court of Honor celebration at the Makakilo Stake Center for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Kapolei on September 26. Pono, son of Mark and Angel, has been actively engaged in scouting since 2013. Pono's most current leadership position is as one of the Troop Guides, who has the important responsibility of acting as a mentor to the younger scouts. Pono's Eagle Scout project involved improving a taro patch in Kahulu'u, which is just a few miles from his grandparents' home. He wanted to do something that would give back to his culture and teach about it at the same time.

Pono's project included planning and coordinating the cleaning out of a traditional Hawaiian taro patch. This taro patch is used to teach about the importance of using the land and its resources efficiently. On the day of his project, Pono was able to get a large group of friends and family to come out and lend their support. The workers came and worked really hard under Pono's supervision. At the end of the day, they had cleaned out three large patches of weeds, removing old and dead plants. After all the work was completed, Pono's family provided an 'ono Hawaiian meal to show his heartfelt appreciation. I commend Pono for his determination and dedication to the Scouts, thereby earning him the esteemed title of Eagle Scout.



Pictured L-R: Sen. Gabbard, Pono, Mark and Angel Saizon.