

Aloha e friends,

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to you and your 'ohana. I'm celebrating my Golden 50th Wedding Anniversary with my wife, Carol, on December 27. I'm lucky to have been able to raise a family and spend my life with such a beautiful woman!

News flash: the City plans to start resurfacing Kapolei Parkway between Kamokila Blvd. and Kalaeloa Blvd. fronting Costco, starting on December 10. Hooray, no more potholes! 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](https://twitter.com/senmikegabbard), Instagram [@sengabbard](https://www.instagram.com/sengabbard), or Facebook at facebook.com/senmikegabbard

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AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

VICE CHAIR
Water and Land

MEMBER

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DISTRICT 20

Kapolei, Makakilo and portions of Ewa, Kalaeloa and Waipahu

Ideas for Legislation

I can't believe it, but we'll soon be coming to the end of 2018. This means our legislative session, which begins on January 16, is just around the corner. As always, I'm interested in your ideas, if you'd like to offer suggestions for changes or improvements in how our state government operates. You don't have to have a full-fledged bill written out, just a few bullet points to get us started and we'll take it from there. Please let me know.

Improvements to Ft. Barrette Road

I'm stoked that the state Department of Transportation is moving forward with Operational Improvements to Fort Barrette Road in Kapolei. The improvements will include modification of signal timing/phasing, resurfacing/restriping, the addition of a shared-use path, an upgraded railroad crossing, and installation of a new traffic signal at Roosevelt Avenue intersection. A highlight of this project will also involve the addition of a dedicated right-turn lane for makai bound commuters at the Kapolei Parkway intersection, as well as additional through-lanes at the approaches on Kapolei Parkway. This important road project will be advertised for construction bidders in March 2019 and construction will begin in June 2020.

Waipahu High's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter

A big congratulations to Waipahu High School for becoming the first high school in the nation to charter a chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges. This honor is tied to Waipahu High's Early College program, which brings professors onto high school campuses to teach college courses. Fifty-six Waipahu High students were inducted into the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society on November 9. This is a huge honor!

Kapolei City Lights

Kapolei City Lights will be held at the Kapolei Hale on December 8 from 5pm to 9pm. The West O'ahu Electric Light Parade will start at 6pm. The parade route will start at the Kapolei Parkway/Ft. Barrette Road intersection and will proceed down Kapolei Parkway to Kama'aha Avenue. The Christmas tree lighting ceremony will be at 7pm. Entertainment will include Kapena, Del Beazley & Friends, Lehua Kalima, and Shawn Pimenta. You'll also have the opportunity to win one of two ESPN 2-player basketball games at the HDS Smile Zone booth at 8:45pm.



COMMUNITY UPDATES

Climate Action Plan Public Meeting

I'll be speaking at the Climate Change Action Plan Public Meeting sponsored by Councilmember Kym Pine and the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency on December 13 at 7pm at the Kapolei Hale, Conference Rooms A & B. This meeting is a good opportunity for West O'ahu residents to learn about the City's first climate action plan, engage in a "game" that helps kick-start a discussion about how best to cut our carbon emissions, and chart the next steps for our island.

Board of Water Supply Trying to Prevent Scams

Representatives of the Board of Water Supply (BWS) have been attending area Neighborhood Board meetings to warn people about potential scams with people visiting homes claiming to be their employees and also making bogus phone calls. They are offering the following tips to protect their customers:

- ◆ Anyone who receives unexpected and/or aggressive phone calls demanding payment for a past due bill are encouraged to call the BWS at 748-5030 for verification. Do not give any information to the caller.
- ◆ BWS does not call customers outside its business hours of Monday-Friday, 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., to request for payment.
- ◆ BWS does not call customers, demand payment, and collect payment all in the same phone call.
- ◆ If a customer is contacted for overdue payment, he or she will be asked to call 748-5030 to make a credit card payment.
- ◆ Safeguard your personal information. Never give your credit or debit card number or other personal information to any caller or visitor without knowing their true identity.
- ◆ Hang up on suspicious callers. If you feel pressured for immediate payment or personal information, hang up the phone and call BWS customer service at 748-5030 during normal business hours. During other times, call the Honolulu Police Department (HPD) at 9-1-1 and notify BWS customer service the next working day. This will ensure you are speaking to a real representative.

- ◆ If you are approached by someone saying he/she is from the BWS, it is acceptable to ask for official identification. All personnel involved in official BWS activities will be properly credentialed -- wearing official BWS attire with the BWS logo, driving BWS labeled vehicles, and carrying an official City and County of Honolulu badge, with the agency identified as the BWS.
- ◆ Residents are encouraged to call the HPD at 9-1-1 if they encounter any suspicious activity. The community may also call the BWS at 748-5000 to file an additional report.

Testimony in Support of Renaming the Diamond Head Tennis Center

As the former head tennis pro at Kulima Hyatt on the North Shore in the mid-70s and a lifelong tennis player, I submitted testimony in strong support of Resolution 18-264, Renaming the Diamond Head Tennis Center at Kapiolani Regional Park, the Donald A. Andrews Tennis Center. The resolution passed the City Council's Parks, Community & Customer Services Committee on November 27 and now will be considered by the full City Council. Don Andrews was the Tennis Specialist for the City and County of Honolulu for 35 years and was the lifeblood of the Diamond Head Tennis Center. He coached junior tennis players, served as tennis director of many tournaments, and loved the game with a passion. In 2006, Don was deservedly inducted into the United States Tennis Association Hawai'i Pacific Section Hall of Fame as a non-player recipient. He and his family were also previously recognized by the Hawai'i Pacific Section as Tennis Family of the Year. I knew Don personally and appreciated his devotion to his job at DHTC. I miss seeing him at the courts, but believe this is a fitting action to honor his legacy.



-with Gov. Ige at the Hawai'i Farmers Union United 8th Annual State Convention at Oko'a Farms, Kula, Maui on Oct. 27.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Screening of Moananuiākea, One ocean, One people, One canoe

I presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate at the worldwide debut screening of the documentary, Moananuiākea, One ocean, One people, One canoe at the Hawai'i Theater as part of the Hawai'i International Film Festival on November 18. This powerful and awe-inspiring film is the creation of Nā'ālehu Anthony, Bryson Hoe, and Maui Tauotaha, respectively director, writer, and editor. They each served as crewmembers on the voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a, dedicating years to capturing the voyage from the deck of the canoe. The film brings the experience, values, and message of the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage of the legendary Hōkūle'a to audiences all over the world. Moananuiākea, presented by the Polynesian Voyaging Society and 'Ōiwi Television Network, in association with Palikū Documentary Films, and in partnership with the voyage's education sponsor Kamehameha Schools, is the next step in the long and exciting journey of the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage. The project significantly illustrates the crucial role of indigenous voices and perspectives in both storytelling and in creating paradigm-changing solutions to the world's most pressing problems. Moananuiākea stunningly captures the historic circumnavigation of Hōkūle'a and crewmembers from the Polynesian Voyaging Society that connected with over 100,000 people in over 150 ports all over the world. It's a record of the ten years of planning and work that went into the Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage and the tireless efforts of individuals from the local community and across the globe including educators, businesses, government, conservation partners, top watermen, and cultural leaders. Dedicated to the 500 crew members who have sailed Hōkūle'a over the years and the hundreds more who have had a crucial role on land, Moananuiākea depicts how the successful revival of a traditional art that was nearly extinct has created a resurgence of pride and respect for native cultures and encourages the active rediscovery of forgotten cultural practices.

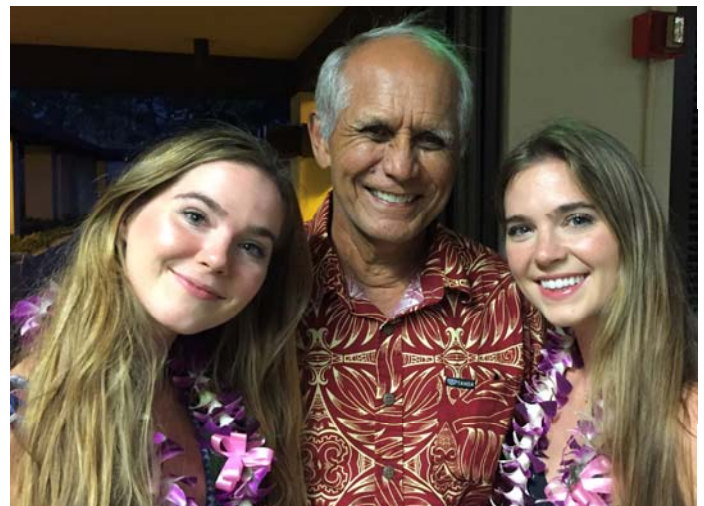
Jack Hall Tower Rehabilitation Project

In November, I wrote a letter to express my support for Ahe Group's application of Low-Income Housing Tax



-with Beckie Stocchetti, Executive Director HIFF; Nā'ālehu Anthony, Director; Bryson Hoe, writer; and Maui Tauotaha, editor, at the premier of Moananuiākea, on Nov. 18.

Credit for the acquisition and rehabilitation of Jack Hall Waipahu Memorial Housing, a 144-unit affordable rental housing project in Waipahu. On July 19th, I attended the Blessing for Ahe Group's Waipahu Tower project and was very impressed with this public-partnership to rehabilitate that 64-unit apartment complex. The Ahe Group is a minority, women-owned and locally operated company based in Kailua and is an experienced developer committed to creating quality affordable housing for our lower income seniors and families. With the acquisition and rehabilitation of Jack Hall Waipahu Memorial Housing, Ahe Group will provide additional affordable rental housing opportunities to nearly 300 Waipahu residents for 61 years. Given our state's affordable housing crisis, I'm very pleased with the Ahe Group's efforts and wholeheartedly support their LIHTC application.



-with actors Nina and Randa Nelson at Vegetarian Society of Hawai'i pre-Thanksgiving dinner at McCoy Pavilion Nov. 19.

HONORARY CERTIFICATES



Sen. Gabbard wrote a short song and performed it, as well as presented an Honorary Certificate from the Hawai'i State Senate to congratulate Kapolei Elementary School on their 25th Anniversary, at Song Fest Celebration on Nov. 16.

Kapolei Elementary Turns 25!

I wrote a short song and performed it, as well as presented an Honorary Certificate from the State Senate at the Kapolei Elementary Songfest and 25th Anniversary Celebration on November 16. Kapolei Elementary opened its doors on September 1, 1993 with just 208 students. The “Second City” was just beginning to grow into the booming town it is today. In 1993, three buildings were officially opened to begin the new school year. Enrollment doubled the very next year with two more buildings being added to house the students. In 1997, six portable buildings were dedicated to the school as KES transitioned to a multi-track school. On May 9, 2003, KES held their first Songfest to commemorate their 10-year Anniversary. During the school year 2014-15, KES transitioned back to a single-track school. Currently, KES has 837 students. The Vision is simple, but powerful: Kapolei Elementary School is a place of excellence. KES’s mission is to provide a safe and nurturing environment with a meaningful standards-based curriculum. Their philosophy is to provide an environment that will promote and enhance a sense of self-worth and belonging. Kapolei is a part of the global family, that will show respect, appreciation, and understanding for the world.

Ulta Beauty Grand Opening at Kapolei Commons

I joined with Rep. Stacelynn Eli and Rep. Sharon Har to present

an Honorary Certificate from the State Legislature to Ulta Beauty at Kapolei Commons on November 9. Ulta Beauty, the largest beauty retailer in the U.S., also has stores in Kailua, Pearl City and Kahului. Since opening its first store in 1990, Ulta Beauty has grown to operate more than 1,100 stores across the U.S. At Ulta Beauty, customers can explore the fun of beauty with more than 20,000 products from

approximately 500 well-established and emerging brands across all categories and price points, including its private label Ulta Beauty Collection. There is also a full-service salon in every store featuring high-quality hair, skin, and brow services. Ulta Beauty is recognized for their commitment to personalized service, for their fun and inviting stores, and their industry-leading Ulta-mate Rewards loyalty program. Ulta Beauty is devoted to creating career opportunities that foster peak performance, reflect the diversity of the community, support a healthy work/life balance, and empower associates to “wow” their guests.



-with Rep. Stacelynn Eli, Bridgette Brown – General Mgr. of the Kapolei Ulta Store, and Rep. Sharon Har.