

Waikele, Village Park, Royal Kunia, Makakilo,
Kapolei, Kalaeloa, Honokai Hale,
and portions of Ko 'Olina & Waipahu

Mike Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District



November 2007

Aloha Friends,

I hope you and your family are well. As you're probably aware, the Hawaii Superferry has been the hot issue down at the Legislature. I got over 6000 emails and many phone calls over the last several weeks from people across the state weighing in on this very important issue.

The Legislature did pass SB 1 on October 31, 2007 which allows the Superferry to operate while an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is being conducted. The Governor signed the bill into law on November 2, 2007. I voted in support of the bill and was happy that we were able to work with the Governor in putting in additional conditions to protect whales and guard against invasive species.

According to the latest media reports, the Superferry plans to resume operations by November 15th. This has been a very divisive issue and I hope that our community will heal in the coming months.

Please contact me if I can ever be of assistance. Mahalo, Mike



Senator Mike Gabbard poses with budding tennis stars from the Kapolei area at the conclusion of his free 3-day tennis clinic on Saturday, October 6th.

New Committee Assignments

I'm pleased to announce that I've been appointed to serve as Vice Chair of the Senate's Transportation and International Affairs Committee (TIA). The Chair of this Committee is Senator J. Kalani English. My first order of business was attending the Superferry Hearings on the Neighbor Islands. Being Vice Chair of TIA is a perfect fit for the people of District 19. I plan to use this leadership position in my continuing efforts to reduce our traffic congestion problems. I'm also looking forward to my new committee assignment on the Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs Committee, which will be chaired by Senator Jill Tokuda. Additionally, I'll continue serving on the Education and Judiciary & Labor committees.

Extended Christmas Hours at Barbers Point Post Office

Here's the latest update on our efforts to improve postal services in our community. On October 9th, I sent a letter to Mr. Greg Wolny of USPS requesting that they consider extending the hours at the Barbers Point Post Office during the Christmas Season. Mr. Wolny wrote me back on November 5th informing me that they'd made the decision to honor my request. From December 1st – 24th, Barbers Point Post Office will be open from 9am–3:45pm, Monday-Friday and 9am-12pm on Saturdays. Effective November 10th, area residents will also be able to bring their "Late Notice" slips to Barbers Point instead of having to go to the Kapolei Post Office. This second change for picking up packages will be permanent. Makakilo resident, Bev Brennan, deserves a "special mahalo" for bringing this issue to my attention and doing all she could to get these changes made.

Repairs and Maintenance for Kapolei Schools



It was great news to hear that Governor Lingle released \$25 million in funding that we had appropriated this past legislative session for the repair and maintenance of schools across the state. You might have heard or read in the media that because of budget shortfalls some of the school repairs were in danger of being put on hold. I'm happy that improvements at four Kapolei and Makakilo schools, Makakilo Elementary, Mauka Lani Elementary, Kapolei Elementary and Barbers Point Elementary, were included in the \$25 million.

Here's a breakdown of what the improvements will be:



Makakilo Elementary	\$184,000 (replace night lights, reroof buildings)
Mauka Lani Elementary	\$296,000 (replace air conditioning unit, installation of exhaust vents, reroof buildings)
Kapolei Elementary	\$320,000 (repair school playground, replace cafeteria chill box)
Barbers Point Elementary	\$375,000 (replace wheelchair lift for special needs students, install new school bell system, resurface basketball court, put in a new stage)

"Listen-Story"

My next "listen-story" will be co-hosted with Representative Sharon Har at the Kapolei High School cafeteria on Saturday, November 10, 2007. Please come. If you can't, call or email your concerns.

Please contact me if I can help you in any way. My phone number is 586-6830 and email is sengabbard@capitol.hawaii.gov. Mahalo for the privilege of serving you!

Ke Akua me ke Aloha,

Senator Mike Gabbard



Senator Mike Gabbard hosted his listen-story meeting at the Kamokila Community Park in Honokai Hale on October 20th. Pictured are (L to R) Sherrod Moore, Erika Moon, Lorraine Martinez, Pat Chardon, Dovie Borges, Bev Larranaga, and George Furtado.

Left: Senator Mike Gabbard tours the Hawaii Youth Challenge Academy headquarters in Kalaeloa on October 4th.

Right: Senator Mike Gabbard visits with students from Kapolei Elementary and Holomua Elementary (Ewa) in the State Senate Chambers on October 16th. The K-6 students were participating in a tour of the State Capitol sponsored by the Leeward YMCA.



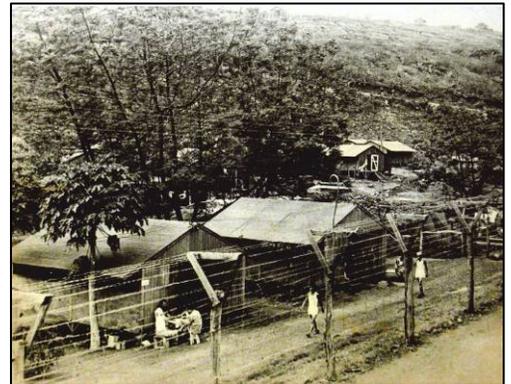
Gabbard and Espero visit site of former Honouliuli Internment Camp



Aloha! I hope you and your family are doing well. Senator Will Espero and I led a delegation from the State Senate on a tour of the site of the former Honouliuli Internment Camp on Saturday morning, September 29th. The Kunia site, which is now overgrown with vegetation, is located on agricultural land (west side of Kunia Road) currently owned by Monsanto Corporation.

Senator Espero and I were joined on the tour by representatives of Monsanto Corporation and Mr. Brian Niiya, Resource Center Director for the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. This past legislative session Senator Espero authored Senate Bill 1228 which Governor Lingle signed into law as Act 163 on June 8, 2007. The bill directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to work with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Japanese American National Heritage Coalition, and the Historic Hawaii Foundation to establish a process to determine the most appropriate means of memorializing the World War II Japanese internment camp experience in Hawaii. The bill appropriated \$50,000 to move this process forward. I joined my colleagues in supporting the bill.

The Honouliuli Internment Camp was one of five internment sites in Hawaii during World War II. It was located on 160-acres of land and opened on March 1, 1943. The internment camp was built to hold up to 3,000 people, but never reached over 320. Most of the internees were males of Japanese ancestry, but there were also a few Germans, Italians, and prisoners of war. They lived in wooden barracks and tents, which were surrounded by barbed wire fences and patrolled by armed guards. Two of the most prominent Japanese Americans interned at the Honouliuli camp were former territorial representative Thomas Sakakihara and former territorial senator Sanji Abe.



Some of the renewed interest in the World War II era internment sites can be attributed to the Camp Preservation Bill (HR 1492). This bill, which mentions the Honouliuli camp, was passed by Congress and signed in law by President Bush on December 21, 2006. The bill was co-sponsored by Congressman Neil Abercrombie and supported by U.S. Senators Dan Inouye and Dan Akaka. It appropriates \$38 million in federal funding for the preservation of internment camps across the nation.



While on the tour, we spotted pieces of dinner plates, glass bottles, a toilet, and building foundations from the World War II era. It was truly an amazing experience seeing up close the remnants of what was one of the most difficult times in American history. I think it's great that we're beginning the long process of restoring and preserving this site for future generations to remember.

During the coming months, Mr. Niiya will be helping to coordinate efforts to inventory the historic remains at the site. If you're interested in learning more, please call the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii at 945-7633.

Senator Mike Gabbard

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