



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

Mike Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District



October 2007

Aloha! I hope you and your family are in good health and doing well. Here are a few things I'd like to share with you: Mike

Funding Released for North South Road

I was very pleased that Governor Lingle released \$12.8 million in funding for the construction of the North South Road on September 5th. This year at the Legislature we appropriated \$55 million towards the completion of this important road project for Kapolei. The four-lane road will run from Kapolei Parkway to the H-1 Freeway and will be a great addition to help relieve the traffic congestion on Ft. Barrette Road and Roosevelt Avenue. The road is scheduled to be completed by September 2009.



Sen. Gabbard representing the State Senate at a groundbreaking ceremony for a parking structure at the Honolulu International Airport on Sept. 18th. He was joined at the ceremony by (L to R) Gerry Majkut (Dick Pacific), House Speaker Calvin Say and Governor Lingle.

Update on Barbers Point Post Office

I recently presented a petition with over 1,000 signatures to Mr. Daryl Ishizaki, USPS' District Manager, and Mr. Greg Wolny, USPS' Manager of Post Office Operations - Honolulu District. The petition was signed by Kapolei and Kalaeloa residents, who joined me in urging USPS to extend the hours of the Barbers Point Post Office. As you know, USPS cut the hours of operation at the post office on November 6, 2006. Since that time, I've gotten many phone calls and emails from Kalaeloa and Kapolei residents unhappy about USPS' decision. I sat down with Mr. Wolny to see if we could convince him to change USPS' policy. Mr. Wolny informed me that USPS had concluded that the volume of business at the Barbers Point Post Office was not heavy enough to extend the hours. He did say that they are monitoring the issue as Kapolei continues to grow. He also informed me that USPS would make one concession for the community and that is to allow residents to once again pick up their packages at Barbers Point.



Celebrate 2007 Children and Youth Month in October

Rep. Sharon Har, Rep. Jon Riki Karamatsu, and I have been working together to help get the word out about the 2007 Children and Youth Month in October. We were able to collaborate with area schools distributing close to 10,000 flyers, which ended up in the hands of every K-12 student and school employee in Senate District 19. (continues...)





If you're not familiar, a law was created in 1997 to recognize the month of October as a celebration of children and youth in Hawaii. This is a unique program which highlights the positive in our young people and happens to be the only one of its kind in the U.S. Many corporations, non-profits, and governmental bodies, such as the Department of Education, are partnering to ensure that Children and Youth Month is an outstanding success. There will be a kick-off event at the State Capitol from 10am to 3pm on October 7th with fun and interesting activities continuing until the end of the month. If you'd like to get a copy of the schedule, please check out this link:

<http://www.kipchawaii.org/pdf/ChildrenYouthMonth2007.pdf>

Honoring AES Hawaii

It was a privilege to present an honorary certificate on behalf of the State Senate to AES Hawaii, Inc. and their General Manager/President Mr. Matt Riel at their 15th Anniversary Celebration in Campbell Industrial Park on August 31st. AES is the single largest generator of electricity to Hawaiian Electric Company and has the only coal-fired plant on Oahu. The facility is capable of supplying about 20 percent of our electricity needs. AES Hawaii uses state-of-the-art clean coal technology, called Circulating Fluidized Bed, which makes the plant one of the cleanest in the world. The plant also uses post combustion technology to further reduce pollutant levels to well below EPA standards, in fact AES Hawaii's emissions are the lowest of the major generating plants on the island.



Honoring the Fredericks upon their 50th Wedding Anniversary

I was honored to present a certificate from the State Senate to Waianae residents, John and Katherine Frederick, at their 50th wedding anniversary celebration at the Hale Koa Hotel on September 2nd. The Fredericks have been blessed with 5 daughters, 5 sons, and 30 grandchildren. John spent his career before his retirement with the Army and Air Force Exchange. He's also well-known on the Waianae Coast for his efforts in promoting youth and semi-pro football.

"Listen-Story"

My next "listen-story" will be held at the Kamokila Community Park meeting room (Honokai Hale) on Saturday, October 20th at 9am. 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!

Aloha pumehana,

Senator Mike Gabbard



Save the date!





P.S. As many of you know, on August 30th, I made the decision to join the Democratic Party. In case you're curious about my reasoning, I'd like to share the following:

I made this decision after a great deal of thought and soul searching, and after many, many discussions with my daughter Tulsi, a former state representative and a Democrat who works as a legislative aide for U.S. Senator Daniel K. Akaka in Washington, DC.

It was also talking story with Senator Akaka, Congressman Abercrombie, and other Democrats in leadership, as well as my constituents—Democrat, Republican, and Independents—that helped me make this decision. In the past few months, I've come to know and respect Senator Akaka and I've been greatly influenced by the genuine aloha and welcoming attitude that he and others have extended to me.



While working together with my colleagues and constituents like you, we've been able to accomplish many things. However, my experience at the Legislature has convinced me that to be even more effective, it would be best if I were a member of the majority Democratic Party.

Some people have told me that my move could damage me politically. But I can't make my decision based on politics. I have to make my decisions based on my conscience, on how I can best serve the people of Hawaii. I'm not a very partisan person. That's actually why I have a lot of supporters. I've been an independent-minded Republican who always follows the dictates of my conscience, not the party line. And I will be just as independent as a Democrat.

Some people have asked how I can be a social conservative on issues like same-sex marriage/civil unions and be a Democrat. The truth is that I'm perfectly in line with the majority of Democrats on this issue. During the same-sex marriage debate, 70% of Hawaii voters agreed with me and voted to protect traditional marriage. The vast majority of those people were Democrats. Over the years, on the grassroots level, I've had tons of Democrats thanking me for my role in protecting traditional marriage, much more than Republicans.

I've also been asked how I can switch to the Democratic Party when I don't agree 100% with the party's platform. Well, to put it bluntly, in my view, if everybody who didn't believe in the party platform left the Democratic Party, the party would consist of a couple thousand people, at most.



Let me be clear. Changing party labels will not affect my pledge to serve you to the best of my ability. Nor will changing parties affect my deeply held core values on family issues.

I appreciate your understanding and your continued support. I am your voice in the Senate, and will continue to be so, until I retire or until you fire me in the November 2010 elections.

Senator Gabbard joined by wife, Carol, daughter Tulsi, other family members and supporters, such as U.S. Senator Dan Akaka, Senate President Colleen Hanabusa, Senator Norman Sakamoto, and Democratic Party Chair, Mike McCartney, at a news conference at Democratic Party Headquarters on August 31st.

Senator Mike Gabbard

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