

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

Mike Gabbard

State Senator, 19th District



March 2008

Aloha,

I hope you and your family are well! Here are a few things I'd like to share with you.

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

Mike

Legislation Moving Forward

I have several bills that I introduced this session which are moving forward at the Capitol. Please contact me if you're interested in weighing in on any of these bills or other legislation. Testimony can be emailed (testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov) or faxed (586-6659) to the appropriate committee.

SB 2363 would better protect mentally handicapped individuals by holding sexual predators "strictly liable" for their crimes.

SB 2373 would require retailers to maintain an electronic log of pseudoephedrine sales – a primary ingredient in making "ice."

SB 2365 would allow hybrid and other alternative fuel vehicles to use HOV lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicle.

SB 2366 would prohibit texting or emailing using a wireless communication device while driving.

SB 3234 would require an ignition interlock device to be installed in the cars of drunk drivers.



Funding Released for Kapolei High Athletic Complex

I was pleased that Governor Lingle announced on January 28th that she released \$343,303 in funding to make improvements to Kapolei High School's athletic complex. This important project includes construction of bleachers, an announcer's booth, restrooms, and also ticket / concession booths. Construction on the project is expected to be completed by June 2009.

Funding Released for Kunia Agricultural Park

After hearing that the Governor had released \$250,000 for the Kunia Agricultural Park on February 20th, I had the opportunity to sit down and talk-story with Mr. Brian Kau of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to get more information about the project. This funding will be used for the planning process which is scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The idea is to subdivide the 150-acre agricultural park into 28 lots for farming. DOA is also looking at building homes right next to the parcels so that farmers can live nearby. According to Mr. Kau, this is some of the best agricultural land in the state. This project will be good for our environment and economy.

Coordinating Fundraising Efforts for the Hawaii Food Bank

I was happy to be chosen by Senate President Colleen Hanabusa to head up the Senate's efforts in the Hawaii Foodbank 2008 Food Drive. Our goal is to raise \$5,000 in monetary donations and collect 1,500 lbs of food to support this important cause. This year we'll be competing with our colleagues in the House, which should be interesting. Please contact me if you'd like to donate any canned food items or rice. Also, let me know if you'd like to purchase a Hawaii Foodbank T-Shirt (\$12) or an Aloha Diners Book (\$12 – lots of great coupons.)



Target's Kapolei Store Opening Soon

It was a pleasure to present Mr. Bryan Berg, Senior Vice President, of Target Co. an honorary certificate from the State Senate in recognition of the Groundbreaking Ceremony for their Kapolei Commons Store (located mauka of Honolulu Advertiser building) on January 24th. I welcomed Target because they have a national reputation for their commitment to the communities they serve. I also support their goal of using environmentally-friendly solar panel systems to supply electricity to the store. Plans are to have the store, which will be the first in Hawaii, open by March 2009.

Honoring Malcolm Ching

I was honored to present a certificate from the State Senate to Mr. Malcolm Ching on the floor of the Senate Chambers on February 13th. Mr. Ching is the General Manager of the Waikele Community Association and was recently selected by representatives from *Business Management Hawaii* magazine and six industry associations as the first ever Property Manager of the Year.



He originally earned statewide recognition and media attention for his role in forming Hawaii's first fast response graffiti team called Taking Action Against Graffiti (TAAG). In March of 2004, he formed TAAG with just 5 Waikele homeowners and a few buckets of donated paint. Now the TAAG team has more than 40 members who have made it their mission to keep their neighborhoods graffiti-free. TAAG has cleaned up over 700 graffiti damaged areas in Waikele and Waipahu.

Mr. Ching has been asked to speak to other anti-graffiti groups about his success. He also meets with community leaders to discuss tougher sentences for convicted taggers and works with the Honolulu Police Department to more effectively fight back against graffiti.



Honoring a True Hero

It was a privilege to recognize Kapolei resident and hero Christopher Ulu on behalf of the Hawaii State Senate at a special family luncheon on February 7th. Mr. Ulu rescued a woman who was being attacked while entering her vehicle in the Don Quijote parking lot in Waipahu on December 13, 2007. The male assailant forced her door open and attempted to shove her into the passenger's seat. Christopher, without any hesitation, rescued the victim from an unknown fate of torment, suffering, and conceivably an early demise.

Caring for others is the core of Hawaii's famed 'Aloha Spirit.' It takes a strong person like Chris who possesses both empathy and compassion to help a complete stranger. Christopher's wife Francine organized the surprise celebration at Dave & Busters at Ward Center in Honolulu so that many family and friends could join me in honoring Chris.



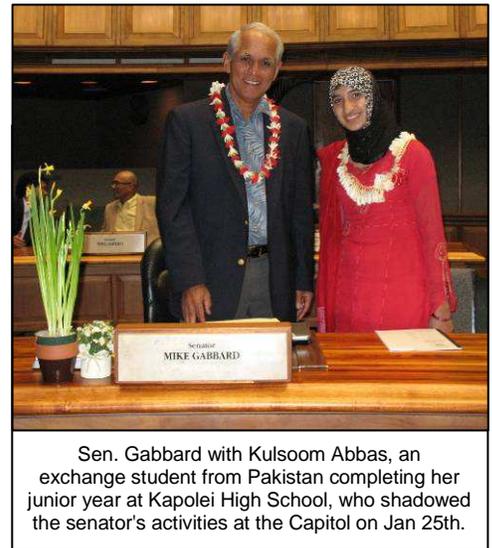
Hosting International Exchange Student from Kapolei High

I was honored to be a part of the Hawaii International Hospitality Center's "Shadow for a Day" program on January 25, 2008. I joined with other colleagues in the State Senate by allowing exchange student, Kulsoom Abbas, to intern in his office for the day.

The Hawaii International Hospitality Center is a private, not-for-profit, community-based volunteer organization dedicated to providing opportunities for cross-cultural learning and international educational exchange.

Kulsoom is a 17-year old student from Nowshesa, Pakistan and is completing her junior year at Kapolei High School . She lives in Kapolei with her host family, Joseph and Tonya Imus, who graciously allowed Kulsoom to learn about the culture of Hawaii. Kulsoom speaks both English and her native language Urdu, and is hoping to be an engineer.

This is a wonderful program which brings greater appreciation and understanding between the people of the Muslim world and Hawaii. Kulsoom is an ideal ambassador for her country.



Sen. Gabbard with Kulsoom Abbas, an exchange student from Pakistan completing her junior year at Kapolei High School, who shadowed the senator's activities at the Capitol on Jan 25th.

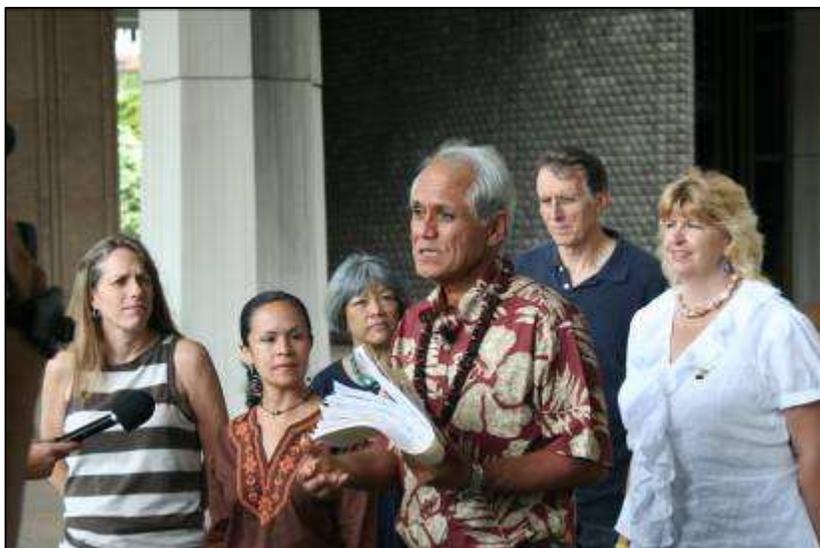
Members of Community Group Present Petition to Senator Gabbard

Members of a newly formed ad-hoc community group, Hawaii Citizens for Food Choice presented me with over 4,000 signatures gathered through a statewide petition at a news conference at the State Capitol on Sunday, February 24th. The group was started less than a month ago by Kailua resident, Penelope Perez. Ms. Perez had read an article in the paper about these bills and was motivated to get involved.



The petition urges my colleagues at the State Legislature to pass important legislation that I introduced (SB 3232) which would require all genetically engineered (GE) whole foods sold in Hawaii to be labeled and (SB 3233), which would compel biotech companies to identify the location of test plots and production of GE crops.

The main thing about this issue is that we live in a democracy where people have the right to know what we put in our bodies. National statistics show that up to 94% of people want GE foods labeled. Even Senators Obama and Clinton have weighed in favoring the labeling of GE foods. And here locally, a recent study done by UH shows that 85% of Hawaii residents think it's important that GE fruit be labeled.



The second bill is meant to give people more information on what's happening on our lands. It's actually a good neighbor bill because those who are growing GE crops would be required to report their location to the Department of Agriculture (DOA), who would post this information on their website, thus making it readily available to the public."

The results of these petitions make it even clearer that the people of Hawaii want to be able to choose whether they eat GE foods or not. Labeling is the only way to provide that option. Both of these bills are really about democracy and letting the public know that our elected officials are listening to them.

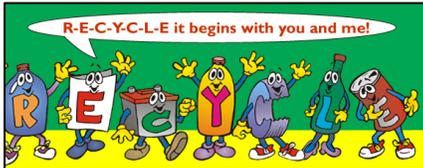
.....Community Happenings

"Listen-Story"

I'll be hosting my next "listen-story" meeting at Kapolei Starbucks (outside seating, near the Chevron Station) at 9:00am on Saturday, March 15th. Please come. If you can't make it, call or email your concerns.



Recycling Community Clean-Up



There will be a recycling community clean-up at Waipahu Intermediate School (94-455 Farrington Highway) on March 1st, 8am-2pm. The proceeds raised at the recycling event will go toward helping Waipahu schools. Please call Rene Mansho at 306-1876 for more information.

Free Tax Service

The Waipahu Community Association will be offering free tax assistance every Friday from 9am – 4pm - February 8th to April 11th at their office, located at 94-340 Waipahu Depot Street. Please keep in mind that you may qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), which is a refundable credit which assists working families. Call 677-6939, ext. 25 for more information or to make an appointment.



2008 Legislative Timetable

..... Speaking Out!

March	
6 th	First Crossover (bills)
10 th	Budget Decking
12 th	Budget Crossover
12 th	Last day to introduce Substantive Resolutions
20 th	Second Lateral (bills)
21 st	Holiday: Good Friday
26 th	Holiday: Kuhio Day
April	
1 st	First Lateral for Concurrent Resolutions
4 th	Second Decking (bills); last day to file bills in non-originating body
10 th	Second Crossover (bills) & last day to disagree
11 th	First Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
18 th	Constitutional Amendments: deadline for final form
21 st	Second Crossover for Concurrent Resolutions
24 th	Last day to file Non-Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading
25 th	Last day to file Fiscal bills to deck for Final Reading
May	
1 st	Adjournment Sine Die



Senator Gabbard addressing over 30 members of the Kapolei Rotary Club on February 14, 2008. The group met at Kapolei High School and discussed legislation and community issues.



Nearly 70 homeschooled students from the group "TeenPact" heard from Senator Gabbard at the Capitol on Feb 27 as part of their weeklong project to learn about the legislative process, write their own bills and to hold mock hearings.



SENATOR GABBARD'S STAFF
at your service!

← Gabbard Team from left

Roberta Fellezs, Admin Assistant
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Erika Moon, Community Liaison
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