



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

November 17, 2016

Tulsi Gabbard  
U.S. Representative  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Hawaii  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Rm. 5-104  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Dear Representative Gabbard,

I am writing to you today to express concerns I have recently received from many of our residents and constituents here in Hawaii who were unable to get clarification from your office. These concerns are related to your refusal to sign a letter of opposition to President Elect Trump's appointment of Stephen Bannon as the chief strategist to the White House. The November 16, 2016, letter was signed by 169 House Democrats, including members of our Hawaii delegation. The letter clearly outlines the significant concerns with Mr. Bannon in the wake of a divisive election and the need to unify our country.

As you are aware, Mr. Bannon – the former executive of Breitbart News, has earned a reputation as a racist xenophobe who promotes anti-Semitism and takes a radical approach to illegal immigration. This flies in the face of what Democrats – particular Hawaii Democrats – stand for. In fact, criticism of Bannon appears to come from both Democrats and Republicans alike. The House Democrats' opposition letter cites praises on Bannon's appointment from white nationalist leaders, representing organizations such as the KKK and the Nazi Party, as disturbing. Indeed, this is beyond disturbing. This is something that everyone in America should find reprehensible especially here in Hawaii as we are living, breathing tapestry of a multitude of cultures and races.

As an elected representative for the people of Hawaii, it is perplexing to me why you would not join our Hawaii congressional delegation, and other House Democrats in expressing your opposition to the Bannon appointment. Your refusal to stand with other Democrats in solidarity infers that you not only support Trump's appointment, but are shifting your political views to fall in line with the incoming administration. This is extremely concerning in light of the November 15, 2016, article in *The Hill* that was forwarded to me by our constituents that concluded that Mr. Bannon is a "big fan" of yours because of your right-wing leanings on particular issues.

All of this begs the question of why you – an elected Democrat representing constituents in a highly Democrat district – support an individual who has a propensity for racism, anti-immigration, anti-Semitism, and ties to White Supremacists groups. Your silence on this issue also infers to many that you would rather see our country continue its current course of disorder and turmoil instead of unity for the good of all the people.

My concern is that your lack of solidarity with other Democrats, and support of Trump's appointment, does not serve the best interest of the people of our districts or Hawaii as a whole. To this end, I would like to know why you chose not to sign the letter of opposition, and what your official position is on the appointment of Mr. Bannon as the chief strategist to the White House. Furthermore, I urge you to issue an official statement denouncing Mr. Bannon's appointment so our fellow Hawaii Democrats know where you stand on this critical issue.

Aloha Pumehana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AMK', is written over a horizontal line.

Angus L.K. McKelvey  
State Representative  
District 10 (West Maui, Maalaea, North Kihei)