



Representative Gene Ward

Representative District 17 • Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 318 • Honolulu HI 96813
Phone (808) 586-6420 • Fax 586-6421 • Cell 781-9931
Email: repward@capitol.hawaii.gov •
Web: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hsemin/index.htm>



Monthly Report: JULY 2009

Lunalilo Home Road Safety Concerns

On July 13, 2009, Rep. Ward and staff met with residents of Kaimala Marina to discuss a long standing danger of turning left into their property and risking getting rear-ended.



They discussed the incidences of "close-calls" and the possibility of constructing a type of left turn lane on Lunalilo Home Road that would allow residents safer access to their parking structure. According to Guido Mazzanti, Kaimala's Resident Manager, the median strip fronting the structure is 93' long and 8' wide, and should qualify the area for a left turn stacking lane.

Surveys to document residents' experiences have been sent out to all Kaimala Marina residents and a follow-up meeting with the State Dept. of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu's Dept. of Transportation Services, and Honolulu Police Department is being scheduled.

SHARK UPDATE:

Following a townhall meetings in Hawaii Kai and an information meeting at the Hawaii State Capitol, Rep. Ward's office formed a Shark Task Force to draft legislation and facilitate enforcement of existing legislation. This month the Shark Task Force reviewed a newly drafted bill that will be vetted in a community meeting next month. Among other things, the bill prohibits shark feeding activity within state marine waters for commercial purposes. The Task Force will be circulating the bill for comments and corrections, additions and subtractions at the next meeting. (cont'd on page 2)

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

-No Permits filed-



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday July 27, 2009 that no application has been filed to develop Ka Iwi.

2009 Special Session Overrides 38 Vetoes

On July 15, 2009, the 25th State Legislature convened for the purpose of overriding Governor Lingle's vetoes.

Session Highlights:
HB 1271 HD3 SD2
CD1-Barrel Tax:
Override failed in the Senate and a 200% tax increase is averted.



SB 1350 SD2 HD1
CD1-Affordable Housing: Veto stands on this bill that could have severely hindered the development of market and affordable housing in the Kakaako area.

HB 31 SD1 CD1-Credit History: Veto is overridden on this bill that disallows certain companies from using credit histories in hiring decisions.

(cont'd on page 2)

2009 SPECIAL SESSION

(continued from page 1) HB 952 HD1 SD1 CD1-Card Check: Veto is overridden on this bill that removes the secret ballot as the primary means of unionizing workers in certain industries.

All totaled, the 2009 Special Session overrode 38 of 57 vetoes.

INDEPENDENCE DAY BRIGHTENS HAWAII KAI SKIES!

The 2nd Annual Independence Day at Maunalua Bay was a great success! Thanks to everyone who stopped by our booth for games, glowsticks and tattoos. And very special thanks to the organizers and vendors who did a superb job!



For those who entered our FREE TRIP TO NEIGHBOR ISLAND DRAWING, Governor Lingle will be drawing the winning entry on July 31, so stay tuned as we announce the winner in our upcoming August newsletter.

PORTLOCK ANNOUNCES GARAGE SALE

The Portlock Community Association (PCA) is having a GARAGE SALE on Saturday August 1, 2009 from 8AM to 1PM.

According to PCA President, David Holzman, residents living on Portlock Road are planning to clean out their closets and sell their junk, so you might find that special antique or plant that Portlock residents are famous for. If you have questions, call David @ 396-0334.

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WATCH Rep. Gene Ward on TV...
As he discusses key legislative topics on Olelo's "Better Government," Friday evenings at 8 pm on channel 54.

FARMERS TO HOST OPEN HOUSE!

Our farmers in Kamilonui Valley will begin lease negotiations in 8 months, please support their efforts by attending "A Day on the Farm" open house being planned for September 2009.

For a complimentary bumper sticker - Call 586-6420.



SHARK UPDATE:

(continued from page 1) Another concern for the task force is a recent study by a UH professor regarding North Shore shark tour operations suggesting shark tours pose absolutely no danger to the public. This finding has been widely circulated in the media but very little scrutiny has been paid to the methodology of the study. For example, the study largely bases its findings on data supplied by the shark tour operators rather than on an objective and independent third party without any possibility of a conflict of interest. The applicability of conclusions from the North Shore study to Maunalua Bay in Hawaii Kai are also questionable.

Members of the task force and other concerned members of the community are still studying the report. A townhall meeting to discuss this study and the new piece of legislation will be held in late August.

Rep. Ward encourages all members of the community to attend this meeting to have their voice heard on this important public safety issue, particularly those who canoe, kayak, fish or swim in Maunalua Bay.

BUDGET STALEMATE CONTINUES ...

The \$2.8 billion budget shortfall is still a few million dollars short and the subject of intense negotiations between the Governor and the public employee unions. So far a 5% salary reduction appears to be agreed upon by all, although furloughs earlier imposed by the Governor and declared unconstitutional may or may not reappear on the negotiating table. Negotiators are in search of approximately another half a billion dollars.

In the meantime, the House Republican Caucus filed paperwork for voluntary two-day-per-month furloughs for its members.