



Representative

2010

Gene Ward



February

District 17 • Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley • www.gene-ward.com

Meeting for Auxiliary Volunteers

On February 16, Rep. Gene Ward will host an informational meeting by the U.S. Coast Guard for those interested in volunteering with the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at the Hahaione School cafeteria.

The auxiliary is responsible for search and rescue operations, public education and awareness programs, vessel safety checks and other specific tasks. Interest in the group emerged from the Maualua Bay Safety Town Hall Meeting held last month to address the death of diver Keahi Lum. The meeting will cover the Coast Guard Auxiliary's training program and volunteer opportunities.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

-No Permits Filed, No New Rumors-



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday, January 25 that no application has been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

The residents of Kalama Kuu town homes have granted an easement on their property adjacent to Ka Iwi, which could signal upcoming development.

On January 4, 2010, the Office of Planning received notification that the petition to reclassify Ka Iwi from Urban to Conservation was filed and deemed complete for processing. Rep. Ward's office will be attending a meeting on the rezoning later this week and will provide further updates in next month's newsletter.

Minority Caucus Puts Hawaii's Families First

House Republican Caucus 2010
"Putting Families First"
Legislative Priorities for 2010

Hawaii's families are hurting like never before. Their children's education and their jobs are in serious jeopardy and deserve our undivided attention in 2010.

Priority #1: End School Furloughs

How:

1. Guarantee a minimum of 180 instructional days per year.
2. Place the Superintendent of schools within the Governor's cabinet.
3. Abolish the Board of Education to increase accountability and create a clearer chain of command.
4. Add a legal representative for students to the collective bargaining process.
5. Open the books and investigate inefficiencies in the Department of Education.

Priority #2: Create More Jobs

How:

1. Prevent more tax and cost of living increases on Hawaii's families.
2. Encourage sustainability and new jobs through private sector initiatives with tax credits for clean energy systems, electric cars, etc.
3. Keep small businesses alive and retain jobs by lowering unemployment insurance rates.
4. Streamline the permitting process to expedite shovel-ready projects and get workers off the bench.
5. Keep focused on job creation and expansion of our economy.

We pledge to take these actions for the education of our keiki and the development of our economy. We are committed to end school furloughs and create more jobs as our focus for the 2010 legislative session!

The first day of the 2010 Legislative Session was all work and no play as the Legislature prepared to tackle the State's growing fiscal and social concerns. In response to these concerns, the House Minority Caucus introduced its 2010 Legislative Package with a pledge to end school furloughs and create more jobs.

Bills to accomplish these priorities include a mandated 180 school year, placement of the Superintendent of schools in the Governor's cabinet, adding a legal representative for students to the collective bargaining process, auditing the Department of Education, tax credits for solar energy systems and mitigation of rising unemployment insurance rates.

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CONSTITUENT'S CORNER

Have any announcements or advice for your neighbors in District 17? Send them to Beth at b.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

- **Support Local Farmers!** Kaiser High School hosts a farmers market on Tuesdays from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Lunalilo Lighting Project Resumes in March

According to the Department of Transportation, the Lunalilo Home Roads Lighting Project will resume as soon as the replacement lights arrive in March. The department is waiting for the Hawaiian Electric Company to energize the replacement lights in March before old lights can be removed.

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In addition to these bills, Rep. Gene Ward introduced a number of bills on behalf of Hawaii Kai residents. Included are bills for creating a task force to rezone Maunalua Bay for improved safety, allowing emergency withdrawals from ERS funds, transferring the responsibilities of issuing State IDs to the counties, increasing penalties and enforcement of shark feeding laws, rezoning Kamilonui Valley from urban to agricultural, and creating an educational program that would assist small contractors in attaining surety bonds. Representative Ward is in the process of also filing a bill to stop graffiti, a bill creating a boater licensing program, and a bill to further limit the use of fireworks.

For more information on any of these bills, please contact Beth at b.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

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Community Survey Results

Furloughs

How stupid are school furloughs, on a scale of 1 to 10: 7.67 average (higher is more stupid)

Use \$50 million from the Rainy Day Fund to cut the number of furlough days: 48% favor, 46% oppose, 6% no response

Convert teacher planning days into instructional days as a means to reduce furlough days: 74% favor, 22% oppose, 4% no response

Who is responsible for the teacher furloughs:

- Governor: 19%
- Teacher's Union: 26%
- Both: 46%, the governor's share of the blame is 41.5% and union's is 58.5% (averages)
- No response: 9%

Balanced Budget

Favor or oppose the following options to balance the state budget:

- Increase in the G.E.T. tax: 34% favor, 58% oppose, 8% no response
- Tapping into the Hurricane Relief Fund: 24% favor, 70% oppose, 6% no response
- Furloughing state employees: 62% favor, 29% oppose 9% no response
- Layoffs of state employees: 55% favor, 38% oppose, 7% no response
- Tapping into the Rainy Day Fund: 43% favor, 53% oppose, 4% no response

Community Issues

Closing Koko Crater Botanical Gardens trails to horses from the Koko Crater Equestrian Center: 24% favor, 53% oppose, 23% no response

Areas where Shark Tours should be banned:

- Maunalua Bay: 10%
- All of Oahu except for North Shore: 15%
- The entire state: 59%
- Nowhere: 8%
- No response: 8%

93 responses

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