



# Representative

2010

## Gene Ward



# February Report

District 17 • Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley • [www.gene-ward.com](http://www.gene-ward.com)

### 123 DAYS of government's failure to end school furloughs!

#### NEW RULES FOR MAUNALUA BAY

On Feb. 16, Rep. Ward hosted a meeting for members of the community who wanted to learn more about how to join the Coast Guard Auxiliary in Maunalua Bay and what the auxiliary's responsibilities are. **The push for greater volunteer surveillance** similar to a Neighborhood Watch Program grew out of an earlier Maunalua Bay Safety Town Hall Meeting following the diving death of Keahi Lum.



It was also announced that **Dept of Land and Natural Resources** was in the process of reducing the number of commercial thrill craft in Maunalua Bay, eliminating the designated water sledding area and **implementing a mandatory boating education requirement** for all operators of motor boats. (See Jan. 2010 letter from DLNR)

#### KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

##### **-No Permits Filed, No New Rumors-**



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday, February 16 that no application has been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

The Office of Planning is currently working to **change the classification of Ka Iwi from Urban to Conservation**. The Land Use Commission will be scheduling a **hearing in April** to address the transformation. Ka Iwi is currently designated as a State Scenic Shoreline.

#### FURLOUGHS, FLAGPOLES, AND TWITTER ON THE HOUSE FLOOR

**FURLOUGHS:** For 123 days, the Legislature has failed to solve the furlough problem. While some measures to reorganize the Board of Education and mandate more school days have moved, there has been no effort to fast-track bills that would get our children back to school. In a recent Finance Committee Hearing, HSTA stated that **furloughs would never end without a tax increase**. This is not likely the way the majority of the people of Hawaii see it.

**FLAGS:** Meanwhile, this month a bill to allow veterans to fly flags on flagpoles on their properties stalled in committee and caused a stir when veterans packed the House gallery in support of a Republican move to pull the bill to the Floor. Officially, the move failed, but video footage showed the



Rep. Ward brings **Point of Personal Privilege** to the House Floor for first time due to an inaccurate Twitter message from across the aisle.

**votes were miscounted**. Majority leadership stated that wrong or right the count is official despite video evidence proving otherwise. Public pressure surrounding the incident has generated a **new hearing on HB 2311** on Feb. 23 at 9:10 a.m. in Rm. 325.

**TWEET:** Rep. Ward made legislative history by challenging another rep's real-time **"tweet"** sent from the floor of the House. He argued that his colleague was **misrepresenting the position of the Minority in the Unemployment Insurance debate** through Twitter. Majority leadership said the tweet was not a violation of House Rules. And, in fact, the **State House Rules don't mention honesty in its code of conduct**.

## CONSTITUENT'S CORNER

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

- **Re-paving Hawaii Kai:** Due to constituent inquiries, Rep. Ward has sought information from the City & County as well as the State regarding re-paving of roads in Hawaii Kai. Thus far, the City & County admits that there are numerous roads in Kalama Valley that have been identified for resurfacing. The City & County is lacking funds so only one project is scheduled for 2010. Kealahou St. from Muolea Pl. to its mauka end is scheduled to be re-surfaced in the middle of 2010.
- **Homelessness in Hawaii Kai:** Hawaii Kai has not been immune to this growing problem. Sandy Beach Park has been a popular site and according to the C&C there are still about 8-12 people living in their cars in the unimproved section of the park (not the grassy park itself). Our office continues to inform the police to direct inhabitants to shelters nearby.
- **Need Fresh Vegetables?** Remember Kaiser High School hosts a Farmers Market every Tues. from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Ono and fresh!
- **2010 Spring Fest:** Support Kaiser H.S.'s '50s-themed festival fundraiser, "Happy Days in Hawaii Kai," to held at Kaiser H.S. on Mar. 27, 10 a.m. till 7 p.m.

## Rep. Ward and the Finance Chair



**Rep. Gene Ward debated with Finance Chair, Rep. Marcus Oshiro over the State budget on PBS's Jan. 14, 2010 episode of "Island Insights," hosted by Dan Boylan. Also on the panel were Senator Russell Kokubun, and UH Professor Carl Bonham. The episode is available online at [http://www.pbshawaii.org/ourproductions/insights\\_programs/](http://www.pbshawaii.org/ourproductions/insights_programs/)**

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## HAWAII KAI FARMERS ALERT: 2 MONTHS till Lease Negotiations



Remember "Day on the Farm" when our farmers noted lease negotiations begin in April? If you are interested in providing testimony for a resolution to encouraging the Bishop Estate to negotiate fair and affordable rents, please call Beth at 586-6420. Mahalo nui!

## Ward's New Staff Ready to Serve You

Rep. Ward's new staff is fully on board for the 2010 Legislative Session and are ready for service. Who's who?

**Beth Fukumoto** (left), **Office Manager**, has a Master's degree in English from Georgetown University and a Bachelor's degree in American Studies with minor in Sociology from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. and/or J.D in the near future.

**Ildiko Hrubos** (middle), **Legislative Aide**, has Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Chinese Studies from Willamette University in Salem, Oregon. She plans to attend graduate school for International Relations in the fall.

**Marlo Ting** (right), **Legislative Aide**, has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science with a minor in Speech from UH-Manoa. He plans to teach English overseas.

**Pam Kam** (not pictured) has been Rep. Ward's community liaison for 3 years.



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# Good News for Hawaii's Economy



# \$200 million to the state

The State of Hawaii's Creative Industries Division (CID) in DBEDT reports that film, television and digital media production is on course to generate more than \$180 million in production expenditures in 2010, with an estimated \$99 million generated in the first six months of the year. Production activity includes five feature films, two network television series pilots, a Korean drama, a Japanese drama series episode and a host of animated series.

The roster includes **SOUL SURFER**, Clint Eastwood's

**HEREAFTER**, which was shot on Maui in January, the Alexander Payne helmed **THE DESCENDANTS**, starring award-winning actor George Clooney, which will start shooting on Oahu and Kauai this spring, **PRETEND WIFE**, the Adam Sandler feature starring Jennifer Aniston and Nicole Kidman, Disney's billion dollar franchise **PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN: ON STRANGER TIDES**, starring award-winning actor **Johnny Depp**, and Universal Pictures' **BATTLESHIP**.



The Black Pearl from Pirates of the Caribbean.

Two television pilots, the long awaited CBS Television's **HAWAII 5-0** series pilot, a potential NBC series pilot, the **DIVINE HERO** K-drama episode, a Japanese TV series episode and, of course, the last season of ABC Television's **LOST** round out the television productions, in addition to **CAPITOL ONE** national commercials and a host international and local television and film productions.

On the digital frontier, two major animated projects employing local Hawaii animators are underway. The internationally acclaimed children's series **VEGGIE TALES** and Discovery Channel's **REIGN OF THE DINOSAURS** television series are in production at

the newly established Hawaii Animation Studios in downtown Honolulu.

On the music front, **CID** continues to grow Hawaii's music sector in the **Annual Grammy Awards**, a Los Angeles **Grammy Museum** event showcasing the diversity of Hawaii's artists, the 2010 **South By Southwest (SxSW)** event in March, which includes showcases of seven Hawaii contemporary artists, and continued annual business development and industry networking

events focusing on the cutting edge of music industry opportunities. The **CID** also participates in the American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers' (**ASCAP**) "I Create Music Expo" in Los Angeles, the **2nd Annual MELE Songwriters Workshop** in Honolulu, Broadcast Music International (**BMI**) **Kauai Music Festival** and the **National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (NARAS)** Music Tech event at

## Na Hoku O Hawaii Festival.

With a current staff of seven, the CID and its Film and Arts and Culture Development Branches are focused on tracking the metrics and aligning programs and initiatives to support the arts, culture, music, film, television and digital media sector development. In the recent report on Hawaii's Creative Economy by DBEDT's Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ), there are over 44,000 constituents that collectively contributed \$4 billion to Hawaii's gross domestic product in 2008. That number has been growing at a rate of 10-14 percent since DBEDT began tracking the employment and annual salaries in these sectors in 2002.

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