



# Representative

## Gene Ward



2010

# March Report

District 17 • Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley • [www.gene-ward.com](http://www.gene-ward.com) • 586-6420

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

### 15 Job Killers Advance in State House

Over 46,500 jobs were lost in Hawaii's economy last year and the trend will get worse if the following bills are passed:

**Job Killer 1:** HB 2421, which increases the tax on petroleum products from \$0.05 to \$1.05 per barrel.

**Job Killer 2:** HB 1926 charges businesses \$20 more for a variety of State fees.

**Job Killer 3:** HB 2370 raises the car rental fee from \$1 to \$4.50 per day.

**Job Killer 4:** HB 2937 turns health benefits into a collective bargaining issues and removes the Legislature's authority to determine what the State can afford to pay.

**Job Killer 5:** HB 2874 increases the transient accommodations tax against our visitors industry.

**Job Killer 6:** HB 2595 makes SOME non-profits pay the general excise tax.

**Job Killer 7:** HB 1907 takes away net operating loss deductions, itemized deductions and the capital goods excise tax credit for small businesses for two years.

**Job Killer 8:** HB 2850 increases the tax on liquor by 13 percent.

**Job Killer 9:** HB 2851 increases taxes on insurance contracts as well as on insurance providers by an unspecified amount.

**Job Killer 10:** HB 2872 allows for an increase in fees on banks and other financial institutions.

**Job Killer 11:** HB 2852 makes the insurance premium tax applicable to HMSA, Kaiser and health maintenance organizations.

**Job Killer 12:** HB 2866 increases taxes on businesses, properties, etc. transferred after to beneficiaries after death.

**Job Killer 13:** HB 2867 eliminates income tax credits and puts a cap on the remaining credits.

**Job Killer 14:** HB 2877 replaces certain income tax exemptions with a 1 percent tax.

**Job Killer 15:** HB 2962 defers the payment of high tech tax credits to Hawaii's high tech companies.

These bills passed through the House and crossed over to the Senate. The total tax increases attached to these bills is over \$400 million.

### HAWAII KAI FARMERS ALERT: 1 WEEK till Lease Negotiations Begin



**Want to see our farmers remain in Kamilo Nui Valley?** Please provide testimony to encourage the Bishop Estate to negotiate fair and affordable rents. Call Beth at 586-6420 for details. Mahalo nui!

### KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

**~~No Permits Filed~~ HEARING SCHEDULED**



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday, March 23 that no application has been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

**Please attend a hearing with the Land Use Commission about land reclassification from urban to conservation on April 8th at 9:30 a.m. at the State Office Tower, room 405.** The goal is to have three people speak and 20 others in the room to show their support. Bring your Ka Iwi t-shirts!

## **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).

- **It's the Law:** The census is essential for representative government and mandated in the U.S. Constitution. The more people who don't complete and mail back the 2010 census form by the end of April, the more employees the Census Bureau will need to hire to go door to door to collect the necessary information. For every one percent of mailed out forms that are filled out and returned on time, the government **saves \$85 million**. We called to ask if names and birthdates are mandatory. They are. Census information will not be shared with any local or federal law enforcement agencies. The Justice Department has ruled that the Patriot Act does not supersede the privacy of the census form.
- **Need Fresh Vegetables?** Kaiser High School hosts a Farmers Market every Tues. from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

## **Good News** **for Hawaii's Economy**

### **Tourism increase forecasted**

The University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) estimated a 2.9 percent increase in visitor arrivals this year in its March 26 report.

### **More direct flights to the state**

Continental Airlines added and Allegiant Air will add more direct flights to and from Hawaii this year. Continental Airlines added flights between Orange County and Los Angeles, California. Allegiant Air plans to buy six Boeing 757s in order to have the capability to fly to Hawaii. These are part of the over 500,000 new airline seats to be added to Hawaii throughout 2010.

### **Tax credits for more local jobs**

More than 3,660 jobs for Hawaii residents were created by 22 film and TV productions that benefitted from \$16.2 million in tax credits, far exceeding the \$120 million spent.

### **Hawaii businesses awarded \$30 million**

The Navy awarded \$30 million of clean-up contracts to four local small businesses: CKY, EATC JV, WCP-Zapata JV and FOPC. The contracts involve cleaning sites in Oahu, Guam, Japan and Diego Garcia.

### **WANT AN E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION?**

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[www.twitter.com/repward](http://www.twitter.com/repward)

## March YouTube Videos



### **March 10: Rep. Gene Ward Addresses the Hawaii State Budget**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MRprfJ-W41o>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GtXMIMhU0WU>

### **March 5: Representative Gene Ward, Ph.D. Address HB 2643**

(Establishes a clean energy bond loan program for renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements on residential and commercial properties)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2RcUkSei19Q>

### **March 3: Representative Gene Ward Ph.D. Address H.B. 2169**

(Unemployment insurance rates)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMJjR5ZAYKQ>

### **March 25: Rep. Gene Ward Addresses SB 2626 Relating to Public Service**

(increases the probationary period before people in appointed positions can work in public service again to one year)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkvovHqJn\\_A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lkvovHqJn_A)

For more videos, visit [www.youtube.com/repgeneward](http://www.youtube.com/repgeneward)

## Famous Amos Speaks Out



During a House Floor presentation, Wally Amos, founder of the Famous Amos cookie brand, was allowed the unusual privilege to use Rep. Ward's microphone on the House Floor to tell a story about embracing diversity.

# March House Resolutions

Rep. Ward introduced the following House Resolutions this month:

**HR 230: Requests Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate to keep Kamilo Nui Valley in agricultural land use** and to establish affordable lease rents to allow farmers to continue producing agricultural crops and protecting established watersheds.

**HR 175: Urges the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources to adopt administrative rules that would re-zone Maunaloa Bay** and demarcate the zones more visibly to improve safety.

**HR 161: Urges the Dept. of Transportation to make top priority projects** the installation of 1) a **left-turn-only lane on Kalaniana'ole Highway Koko Head-bound into the Koko Marina Shopping Center** and 2) a second right-turn lane from Lunalilo Home Road Ewa-bound onto Kalaniana'ole Highway.

**HR 228: Requests the establishment of a Hawaii "APEC 2011 Strategic Planning Commission"** to facilitate the November 2011 APEC Conference to be held in Honolulu.

**HR 229: Encourages cellular phone carriers to implement one-way charges for calls on their networks.**

**HR 237: Encourages Peace Corps Washington to reopen Peace Corps East Timor**, where Rep. Ward was former country director.

**HR 162: Encourages the U.S. Military to establish and promote Hawaii as a premier rest and recreation destination** for active duty personnel.

## Ward's New Intern



**Rep. Ward has an enthusiastic new intern named Joshua Cook**, who speaks Arabic, Greek and a little bit of Spanish. Cook is an interrogator for the Army Reserve and served as a combat medic. He also works at the restaurant P.F. Chang's and is pursuing his master's degree in Diplomacy and Military Studies at Hawaii Pacific University.

Cook recently represented our office at a Coast Guard awards banquet and wrote a speech that Ward plans to use on the House Floor.

**Interns earn a great resume, pizza and a lot of gratitude. If interested in interning, call Beth at 586-6420.**

## Medal of Honor ceremony at the Capitol



On **March 23, Rep. Ward hosted the family of Lance Cpl. Zachary Tenbrook, a Hawaii Medal of Honor recipient.** Tenbrook served in the U.S. Marine Corps and has also been awarded the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and National Defense Service Medal.

## Honoring "Not Even Once!" Meth Project



Cindy Adams on the House Floor with Rep. Ward.

On Monday, March 22, Rep. Ward gave a Floor Presentation honoring the Hawaii Meth Project. The goal of the project is to greatly reduce meth use among Hawaii's teens and young adults. **The project is best known for its popular but scary TV and radio ads and its "Not Even Once!" prevention campaign.**

**Cindy Adams, the Executive Director of the Meth Project,** received the resolution and certificate of commendation from Rep. Ward. Other staff members, volunteers, and supporters were also recognized for the positive difference they are making in our state.

## Briefs

**Editorial:** An opinion article by Rep. Ward about Scott Brown's election in Massachusetts after the government failed to listen to the people, and how what happened there relates to Hawaii, ran in the Honolulu Star Bulletin on March 19. The article is headlined "Massachusetts was a straw in the wind" and can be found online at [http://www.starbulletin.com/editorials/20100319\\_Massachusetts\\_was\\_a\\_straw\\_in\\_the\\_wind.html](http://www.starbulletin.com/editorials/20100319_Massachusetts_was_a_straw_in_the_wind.html)

**Peace Corps' Birthday:** Rep. Ward gave a speech at the East-West Center about the 49th anniversary of the Peace Corps.