



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
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PRESS RELEASE

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WARD RESOLUTION TO CREATE DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE PROGRAM PASSES IN WASHINGTON, DC

Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today announced the passage of a resolution he introduced that will create a "Democracy and Governance Program" in the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) - a national association of state legislatures. The program will be funded by US State Department and USAID programs which sponsor democracy training seminars and exchanges between US policy-makers and legislators from emerging democracies.

"Hawaii will be a key player in this program and will reach out to our Asian brothers and sisters who are still looking for models of good governance," Ward said.

Ward is one of the founding members of the International Relations Task Force of ALEC and attended its inaugural meeting in Washington, DC from Dec 1-5, 2009 **at the invitation and expense of ALEC**. Ward authored the successful resolution based on his past experience as a Democracy Officer with USAID where he experienced firsthand how important democracy training is to newly democratized nations. Ward has been a guest speaker to numerous parliamentarians in Indonesia and sees opportunities for these same elected officials to now visit Hawaii.

The resolution also calls for an annual democracy conference and governance seminars beginning in 2010, simultaneous to the pursuit of grants, scholarships, and international exchange program sponsorship for all participating state legislatures.

The resolution passed unanimously during the ALEC "2009 States and Nations Policy Summit" where members of the public and private sectors meet in a dynamic partnership to support research, policy development, and dissemination activities in Washington D.C. (No state funds were used for this event.)

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Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives
and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley.