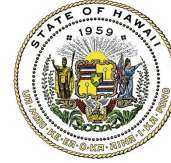




Representative

2013

Gene Ward



August Report

Minority Leader Emeritus

Vice Chair, Economic Development And Business Committee

District 17 • Hawai'i Kai-Ka Iwi Coast-Kalama Valley

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MAUNALUA TOILETS COULD BACK UP ANOTHER 240 DAYS!

Representative Ward hosted a conference call on July 30, inviting all parties working on the restroom repairs project to participate in what was supposed to be a status/update meeting so everyone would be on the same sheet of music. What was most telling was the absence of people that decided to not be a part of the call. Department of Design & Construction and Integrated Construction, were just two of the key players that decided not to participate. In fact, one invitee requested that Rep Ward cancel the call because "the project is going forward". While this is technically correct and has been the pat answer for the past 2 years, it is simply not sufficient for an informed community.



What is absolutely the latest is that all necessary permits have been issued and *the contractor was given a green light to proceed 3 months ago*. However, as of last week, no material has been ordered and no start date has been established.

The other kicker is that according to the contract for this project, the contractor has **240 days to complete the project, and the clock does not start ticking until the materials have been ordered and received which will add another 4-6 weeks, and...until the materials have been received the contractor will not set a start date.**

To translate all of this into when we might expect functioning restrooms again at Maunalua Bay, please see the following timelines:

If the start date of the project is September 1 - we should have working restrooms at the latest by May 2014

If the start date of the project is October 1 - we should have working restrooms at the latest by June 2014

If the start date of the project is November 1 - we should have working restrooms by the latest July 2014

This could go on forever.....you get the picture. But we're still optimistic that those in charge of monitoring and executing the project will expedite this embarrassing track record into something good for our community.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:



As of August 23rd, 2013, no applications have been filed for development on Ka Iwi, according to the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

GREAT LAWN UPDATE:



As of August 23rd, 2013, KS/BE has not changed their postponement of the development of the Great Lawn.

KEEPING UP WITH THE JONES ACT



Rep Ward interviewed Mike Hanson of the Hawaii Shippers Council about the Jones Act and its impact on Hawaii and other American territories in the Pacific. The Jones Act

is part of the Merchant Marine Act of 1920 and requires that goods and passengers transported by water between U.S. ports be done in U.S.-made ships, owned/flagged by U.S. citizens and manned by U.S. citizens.

Mr. Hanson has pushed for a minor exemption from the Jones Act to help lower the cost of living in Hawaii. He has also noted that "Hawaii isn't the only one wanting to modify the Jones Act. A [resolution](http://houseminority.wordpress.com/2013/07/26/better-government-host-rep-ward-discusses-the-jones-act/) that sought to exempt Puerto Rico from the act was introduced in late April and adopted soon after by the Puerto Rican Senate. The U.S. Virgin Islands have been exempt since 1922. Guam is also partially exempt". See the entire program at <http://houseminority.wordpress.com/2013/07/26/better-government-host-rep-ward-discusses-the-jones-act/>

Join us at a "Coffee Summit" or a "Beer Summit"

Got a community issue or concern Rep Ward needs to act upon? Join Chief of Staff, Paige Altonn at this month's "summits" to set things into motion.

COFFEE SUMMIT - Tuesday, September 3, 2013 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zippys (inside at the far right corner) Koko Marina

BEER SUMMIT - Thursday, September 5, 2013 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Kona Brewing Co. (outside on patio entrance) - Koko Marina

CONSTITUENTS' CORNER

First Annual Ka Iwi Run & Walk!



The First Annual Ka Iwi Coast Run & Walk is a 4-mile journey along the famous Ka Iwi

Coast scenic highway that will take place on Sunday, Oct. 6th, 2013. The race will begin at 6:30am when a special Hawaiian 'oli (chant) composed for the event will be performed. Each participant will receive a glass ball, fishing float and race t-shirt for their registration.

The run starts at Sandy Beach and continues around the Ka Iwi coastline, passes Halona and Hanauma Bay and finishes at the Hui Nalu Canoe Club halau on the shores of Maunaloa Bay.

For more information and a registration form visit www.kaiwicostrun.org

DRONES COMING TO HAWAII?



Rep Ward participated as a panelist, along with members of the military, academia, and the aerospace industry in a program sponsored by Think-Tech and the Hawaii Venture Capital Association at the Plaza Club on July 25. His presentation explained the State of Hawaii's application to the FAA's call for bids to become one of 6 test sites in the nation to integrate UAV (unmanned aerial vehicles) with conventional take off and landing aircraft at US airports. Hawaii is in a partnership with Alaska and Oregon and has a good chance of being selected as one of these sites. While most associate UAVs with drones and military use, there are a myriad of commercial uses that are being experimented with from border patrol to crop management, real estate to land use planning. Rep Ward sees drones and UAVs not just in the air, but also on land (see his driverless car legislation of the 2011 session), in the sea, (for mineral exploration and mapping of the ocean floor), and in space, (as unmanned space crafts). He also sees drones as part of the industrial revolution's next phase when "machines will make machines" and robots, rather than men and women doing the labor.

The difficulty with drones as with all sophisticated communication and technological advances is that there is often a fine line between their use for good versus their misuse for evil, national security versus personal privacy, and big brother government versus civil liberties and freedom. Robots and UAVs will inevitably be used more and more in the future, but it is now that policy discussions need to take place to assure their correct application (and why Rep Ward participated on the panel).

A TAXING TOUR



One role of the legislature is to monitor and oversee the executive departments (of the Governor's office) and one off-session activity of the House Finance Committee is to visit and look into the problems of those departments. In July Rep Ward and his colleagues on the House Finance Committee toured the Hawaii State Tax Department hosted by Director Frederick Pablo. The most often repeated problem was the serious understaffing since the recession of 2009.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Do you support a Special Session to pass same-sex marriage?

Email us at p.altonn@capitol.hawaii.gov

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