

Representative Gene Ward

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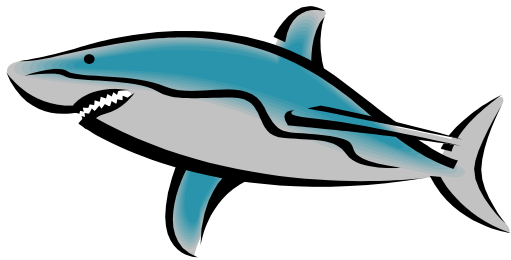


Monthly Report: AUGUST 2009

Shark Bill vetted to Hawaii Kai

On August 19, 2009, Rep. Ward held a town hall meeting at Hahaione Elementary School to get feedback from the community on new legislation regarding shark feeding.

The meeting was an outgrowth of his April town hall meeting where over 300 angry residents spoke unanimously against a proposed shark feeding tour business proposed for Maunalua Bay. In attendance were Senator Mike Gabbard, Councilmember Charles Djou, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, and Rep. Lyla Berg along with members of the community and various organizations. Conspicuously absent at the meeting were any shark tour operators to comment on the legislation which proposes over \$100,000 fines for shark feeding violations. The



meeting, unlike previous meetings, went without incident or shouting matches. Rep. Ward

simply described the bill and received comments from the audience. (View summary at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w-GxOL7kgms>).

In its current draft, Rep. Ward's Shark Feeding bill increases fines and penalties for breaking the existing feeding laws and more inclusively defines what is meant by shark feeding by expanding the definition to mean attracting sharks by any means including electronic devices and mandating the installation of 24-hour surveillance technology akin to NOAA's satellite-based vessel monitoring system on shark tour boats, or as recently utilized by the Superferry for whale watching. Community suggestions included a total ban on all shark tour operators, allowing shark tours to operate in select

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KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

-No Permits filed-



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday, August 24, 2009 that no application has been filed for any developments on Ka Iwi.

Lunalilo Home Road Light Project

Can adding three times as many light poles and paying three times the monthly electricity bill for illumination on Lunalilo Home Road be justified in this economy? In a letter to Mayor Hannemann dated July 30, 2009, Rep. Ward asked for a "Lighting Moratorium" on Lunalilo Home Road until questions are answered and the community is consulted.

In the photo below, Rep. Ward speaks with UH Astronomer, Dr. Richard Wainscoat about how such a project could have occurred. Both were attending the protest of the light project on August 17th held at the corner of Anapalau and Lunalilo Home Road. In the foreground, Councilman Djou, (who voted against the project), speaks with the Honolulu Advertiser about the multi-million dollar project no one wanted.



Shark Bill Vetted to Hawaii Kai

(continued from page 1) areas and requiring operators to pay the costs of a "Compliance Observer" on every tour.

The bill will be introduced in the 2010 Legislative Session as the culmination of Rep. Ward's two community meetings. Until then the bill is still a draft and more input is welcome. If you have comments or would like a copy of the bill, contact Beth at b.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

"This is how democracy is supposed to work!" Rep. Ward said about how government should be wired to react to residents' concerns by listening, learning then drafting bills for legislative and citizen action.

Some Good Economic News for Hawaii



Despite the State's failing economy and a \$800 million budget shortfall, Hawaii residents can find reason to celebrate as pieces of good news for Hawaii's economy begin to surface.

For example, Hawaii is now home to the USS Hawaii, a "Virginia-class" nuclear attack submarine that could pump \$17 million annually into our State's economy. The USS Hawaii is first of several submarines expected to move into our State as a part of the Department of Defense's goal to ramp up security in the Pacific.

Additionally, the largest and most powerful telescope in the world, Thirty Meter Telescope (TMT) is on its way to Hawaii along with a \$1.2 billion dollar investment into our State's economy. The nonprofit consortium planning to built TMT will provide 140 science and support jobs in addition to 300 or more construction jobs as well as reaffirm Hawaii's global leadership in astronomy.

Of course things are still tough, but how we think about these things as FDR cautioned, is important in controlling our fears when we face rather than run from challenges. Remember the many boom years of the past decades....and that large sums of money are still out there waiting for our confidence levels to change. So yes, it is more than just "Don't worry be happy!" It's about trusting who we are as Americans and what we have done in the past and we can do it again in the present and future in the wake of hardships. In short keep the faith, this too will end.

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Support the Hawaii Kai Farmers!

Now is the time to get serious about preserving agricultural land in Hawaii Kai. Our farmers are just 7 months away from lease renegotiations and not sure they will be able to afford the rent increases so they can stay in Kamilonui Valley in the back of Hawaii Kai.

Show your support by attending this event which we hope the entire Hawaii Kai community will attend. There will be tours, door prizes, contests, teach-ins about the farmers' plight, bumper stickers, ono food, tours of the properties, games for the kids, and other activities designed to educate the community and show support for Kamilonui Farmers! Please support our farmers by attending "**A Day on the Farm**" open house on Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 9 AM to 3 PM. If you'd donate a door prize or be a volunteer, contact Beth at b.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov or call 586-6420.



Governor Picks a Winner!



On July 31, 2009, Governor Linda Lingle selected contestant Pearl Cummins as the winner of Rep. Ward's "July 4th Independence Day at Maunaloa Bay Drawing" for two free round-trip interisland tickets.

Universal Health Care on Olelo

This month on "Better Government," Rep. Ward focuses on the national issue of Universal Health Care.

Watch as Rep. Ward discusses President Obama's proposed reforms as well as other potential reforms that could affect Hawaii's health care industry with guests, Coral Andrews VP of the Healthcare Association of Hawaii and UH Public Health Professor, Jay Maddock, Ph.D. There was no shouting in this discussion, and both felt Hawaii was well ahead of the curve in this debate.



Olelo's "Better Government" airs Friday evenings at 8 pm on channel 54.