



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

PRESS RELEASE

Gene Ward, Ph.D.

State Representative, District 17

Minority Policy Leader

Phone: (808) 586-6420 / Fax: (808) 586-6421

Email: repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For More Information, Please Contact:

Representative Gene Ward (808) 781-9931

Beth Fukumoto (808) 586-6420

HAWAII KAI FARMERS FEAR STEEP RENT INCREASES COULD CURTAIL AG OPERATIONS IN KAMILONUI VALLEY

Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley), the Kamilonui Farmers' Co-op, and other community organizations in Hawaii Kai today announced they are sponsoring a "A Day on the Farm" open house in Kamilonui Valley to raise awareness about the plight of the farmers in the back Hawaii Kai.

The farmers of Kamilonui Valley (behind Mariner's Cove) are just a few months away from lease renegotiations with Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate, and many fear steep rent increases will shut down their operations and make staying in Kamilonui Valley unaffordable.

Judy Nii, owner of R&S Nii Farms said, "We hope the more people understand our farms and what we mean for the community, the more they will support us."

The community event will include kids' games, ono food, a farmers' market, live entertainment, community booths, door prizes, farm tours, and a "teach-in" to educate attendees about the importance of agricultural lands to Hawaii Kai, the dangers of overdevelopment, and the history of farming in Kamilonui Valley.

"Hawaii Kai is already over-developed, to lose our farmers in Kamilonui Valley is a clear and present danger to all of us who live in this community," said Rep. Ward.

"A Day on the Farm" will be headquartered at R&S Nii Farms, 938 Kamilonui Place, in Hawaii Kai's Kamilonui Valley on **Saturday, October 10, 2009 from 10 AM – 2 PM.**

(See attached flier and map.)

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