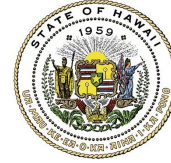


Representative

2014

Gene Ward



December Report

Minority Leader Emeritus

Co-Chair Small Business Caucus and AeroSpace Caucus

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

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BEER SUMMIT OPENS THE NEW YEAR WITH UH PRESIDENT

Thursday, January 8, 2014 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Kona Brewing Co. - Koko Marina Shopping Center

University of Hawaii President - David Lassner:

"All You Ever Wanted to Know About the University of Hawaii"

Come and say hello to UH's new President and ask your favorite question about one of the most important institutions in the state of Hawaii. What will be the future of sports at UH? Will there be tuition increases? The fate of the Cancer Center? The Presidential Library? Come and meet David and get an update on what's going on under his watch and what his vision is for the future of the University of Hawaii System.

Remember this meeting is for constituent services assistance also, so bring your local questions, concerns and complaints to this meeting, and please don't forget we have a COFFEE SUMMIT January 6th and the first Tuesday of every month of the year at 5:30 pm at Zippy's in Koko Marina for constituent services and general information/talk story about Hawaii Kai and the state of your state government. Join us for one or both of these monthly sessions with Representative Ward.



MELE KALIKIMAKA & HAU'OLI MAKAHIKI HOU!

No matter how you say it, or who says it, Christmas in Hawaii is a time of warmth and good cheer. On behalf of my office, family, Faredah and Johanna, and my heartfelt gratitude to be your representative in the Hawaii House of Representatives, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Please plan to join us on Opening Day at the Capitol, January 21, 2015.



"For nearly 2,000 years the message of Christmas, the message of peace and good will towards all men, has been the guiding star of our endeavors ... (Christmas) is the day when we remind ourselves that man can and must live in peace with his neighbors and that it is the peacemakers who are truly blessed."

President John F. Kennedy



ISLAND VOICES – Honolulu Advertiser

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Nov 27, 2014

HECO endangering itself by foot-dragging on solar power **By Gene Ward**

"Solar on every roof" has been my message to the people of Hawaii for the past eight years.

Going forward, it may be "solar on every roof - and storage batteries under every house."

Earlier this year, I compared Hawaii's electrical grid to an old-fashioned mainframe computer system - a system that has not kept up with the development of stand-alone personal computers and devices. Our state continues to rely on a centralized power plant to distribute power across the electrical grid. In the meantime, we continue to waste the sun for the sake of an outdated paradigm focusing on the producer rather than the end-user.

This "micro-grid" paradigm is evolving as the new reality even as Hawaiian Electric Co. continues to drag its feet for advancement of larger quantities of renewable energy from rooftop solar that has been vastly improved and more cost-effective.

Dramatic advances in battery storage technology, which allows consumers to store the energy they've generated for later use, will make going off the grid possible sooner than we think. I suspect there are a growing number of homes already planning to do this, and this should be a wake-up call for HECO to keep them in the family.

But for HECO's solar policies to remain credible, it needs to rely less on its mantra of "stability and reliability" and turn to one that allows hook-ups more quickly, and incentives and assurances to put as much solar on our roofs as possible, especially while the federal 30 percent tax credit remains alive. That expires Dec. 31, 2016. Right now, there are enough financial incentives for most homeowners with rooftop PV systems to enter into net energy metering (NEM) agreements with HECO, whereby they sell the excess electricity their systems produce back to the utility.

But this incentive could become outdated at the present pace and by disincentives planned by HECO. Even though the company recently announced it will address its backlog of 4,800 applications for PV interconnection from customers seeking to supply electricity to the grid by April 2015, those customers hoping to purchase and install a PV system with a NEM agreement will be at the proverbial "back of the line."

This delay in the approval process, combined with HECO wanting to start paying its NEM customers a less favorable rate for the electricity they feed into the grid (part of a proposal yet to be approved by the Public Utilities Commission), may make this arrangement less attractive. And again, this would force people to consider getting off the grid as a viable option.

For all these reasons, more and more people will be compelled to move over to the "non-export model" — that is, not feeding power back into the grid under a net energy metering agreement, but feeding it into their own homes through their own batteries into their own independently generating micro-grid. What could be more American than this?

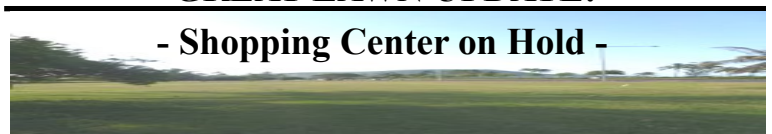
[http://www.staradvertiser.com/
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LAST CALL FOR CAPITOL INTERNS

If you're interested in gaining insight into how your government works and being a part of it, call 586-6420.

GREAT LAWN UPDATE:

- Shopping Center on Hold -



As of December 15th, 2014, no movement has been made by KS/BE regarding their proposal for the development of a shopping center on the Great Lawn.