



Representative Gene Ward

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Monthly Report: DECEMBER 2009

BUDGET CUTS BUMP RUDOLF FROM SANTA'S SLEIGH

This year, the Christmas tree that usually stands in the House Chamber foyer was cut by 20% just like everything else in the state budget.



The decapitated tree (see left photo), designed by House of Representatives employees Neil Shigemura and Denise Liu, was adorned with budget cut ornaments that reflected the many economic challenges facing the state. Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer got bumped, Comet and Cupid got

20% less Christmas tree at Capitol symbolizes budget cuts

Reindeer got bumped, Comet and Cupid got

pink slips, and Dancer, Prancer, Donner, Blitzen and Vixen must abide by furlough days.

While admiring this year's tree, Rep. Ward said "Despite our ongoing troubles, I am continually blessed by the lighthearted spirit of the people of Hawaii. Not only have we preserved the Christmas season by continuing to give gifts and spend time with loved ones, but as you can see, we've even learned to laugh at the very things that threaten to tear us apart."

On a more serious note, Rep. Ward believes that the ongoing teacher furloughs are the **BIGGEST FAILURE OF GOVERNMENT IN 2009**. He is extremely disappointed that the situation is still unresolved and hopes his colleagues will make the issue top priority in 2010.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

-No Permits Filed, No New Rumors-



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Monday, December 28 that no application has been filed for development on Ka Iwi. Additionally, no new rumors have developed.

WARD ENCOURAGES BAY SAFETY THROUGH COAST GUARD PROGRAM



Community enforcement is the quickest way to see improved safety in the bay. Rep. Ward is encouraging anyone interested in helping enforce safety regulations in Maunalua Bay to volunteer with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. For now, the previously mentioned, Makai Watch, will be focusing on enforcing conservation laws. A meeting with the Auxiliary will take place for any interested volunteers in late January. If you would like more information, please call Beth at 586-6420.

CONSTITUENT'S CORNER

Have any announcements or advice for your neighbors in District 17 (Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley)? Send them to Beth at b.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov, and we'll publish them here:

- **Dog Walking Noise:** A resident of Kalama Valley requests that residents refrain from walking their dogs late at night or early in the morning when others may be sleeping. Currently, off-hour dog walking is causing other dogs to bark and wake sleeping neighbors.
- **No Parking on Sidewalks:** A constituent has noticed a growing trend of residents parking their cars only partially in their driveways, blocking sidewalks with the remaining portion of their car. Most sidewalks are public property, and thus, it is illegal to park on them.
- **Congrats to Winners of the Hawaii Kai Marina Boat Parade:** Best Overall Winner - **Tom Hintnaus** for **"Cirque Du Hawaii Kai"**, 1st Place Under 20' - **Matt Buckman** for **"SurFn Santa"**, 2nd Place Under 20' - **Ted Fuller** for **"Mini Tug Boat"**, 3rd Place Under 20' - **John Gravener** for **"Mickey Mouse Xmas"**, 1st Place 20' to 30' - **Eddie Fraser** for **"The Grinch Stole Xmas"**, 2nd Place 20' to 30' - **Craig Waltz** for **"Harry Potter Express"**, 3rd Place 20' to 30' - **Jim Petrides** for **"Sponge Bob Pineapple"**, 1st Place over 30' - **Hui Nalu Canoe Club** for **"Surfin Santa"**, 2nd Place over 30' - **Bob & Kay Hampton** for **"Paradise White Xmas Hula Girls"**, 3rd place over 30' - **Kenan Knieriem** for **"Frostie."**
- **Talk Story Invitation:** Discuss upcoming issues with Rep. Ward et. al. on January 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at "Talk Story" in Maunaloa Bay.



HONOLULU AIRPORT SAFETY CONCERNS

On December 17, Rep. Ward toured the Sheriff's station at the Honolulu International Airport to get better insight on terrorism, airplane safety procedures, investigation techniques, the Canine Unit and other issues related to public safety. Rep. Ward is currently considering legislation that would limit budget cut effects on departments responsible for public safety.



GOING NUCLEAR FOR 10 CENTS

PER KWH?

This month on Olelo's "Better Government," Rep. Ward discusses the potentials for nuclear energy with Jay Fidell



and Senator Fred Hemmings. The show airs Friday evenings at 8 p.m. on channel 54.

GET A CAPITOL HEARING



On December 15, Rep. Ward participated in a mock hearing for students interested in government affairs. If your child or your child's school is interested in attending a hearing at the State Capitol in 2010 call Beth at 586-6420.



CHRISTMAS PARADE IN HAWAII KAI

On November 28, Rep. Ward rode his Segway in the Lions Club's annual Hawaii Kai Christmas Parade. Thanks to the Lions and all other participants for this year's wonderful event!

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