

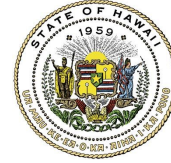


Representative

2014

Gene Ward

Minority Leader Emeritus
Vice Chair, Economic Development And Business



January Report

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

www.gene-ward.com • www.facebook.com/repward • 586-6420 • repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

KEEP ALERT TURNING LEFT INTO KOKO MARINA SHOPPING CENTER

Almost everyone in Hawaii Kai or East Honolulu has had a close call either entering or exiting Koko Marina Shopping Center next to the Chevron station. For those coming from town, it's like the days before Kalaniana'ole Hwy was widened and cars darted from the left lane and cut off people in the right lane to avoid those turning left in front of them. The other danger comes from those leaving the shopping center at the Chevron station turning left towards Hanauma Bay. According to HPD records there were 11 accidents from September 2011 to September 2012, (one of them resulted in serious injury) on Kalaniana'ole Hwy at the intersection of Koko Marina by Chevron. Using this yearly average and being a 20-year problem, there's a few hundred reasons to do something.



Two historic meetings have been held between the Department of Transportation and the Shopping Center's management after many years of stand-offs, but **no agreement has yet emerged, particularly about the prohibition of LEFT TURNS out of the shopping center heading east towards Hanauma Bay.** In a recent email, our office was informed that the Center's management still has made no decision but will continue to evaluate the possibility of installing No Left Turn signs. **This is a private property decision for the owners to make, however, it is also a public safety decision on the part of our community, for which our office will continue to push.**

LUXURY CONDO IN LIMBO.....?

Mike Greco and GK Group LLC have parted company with Hale Ka Lae LLC. It appears that owner, Mr. Joshua Lim will have to find both a new developer for the luxury condo as well as find another location for the affordable housing requirement still attached to any development on the Hale Ka Lae property.



A BETTER WAY TO GET KIDS TO COLLEGE...



Soaring tuition costs and the burden of obtaining student loans have dampened many students' dreams of continuing their education. However, Rep Ward has introduced a bill that could change the way students at UH pay for their education. Ward's bill would task the UH system with examining the feasibility of a "pay-forward, pay-back" pilot program to replace the current tuition fees model. In lieu of paying tuition or fees, students would enter contracts to pay back the university a certain percentage of their income after graduating and securing a job. "It is time to act to incentivize higher education. **Education is the great equalizer and we need to put our young people into jobs, not into debt,**" Ward said about his bill based on one from Oregon.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

- No Permits Filed -



As of January 24th, 2014, no applications have been filed for development on Ka Iwi, according to the City's Department of Planning and Permitting.

GREAT LAWN UPDATE:

- Shopping Center still on "Back Burner" -



As of January 24th, 2014, KS/BE has not changed their postponement of the development of the Great Lawn.

SHOOTING RANGE FULLY SHUT DOWN FOR NEW “EYE BROWS”

“The entire Koko Head Shooting Complex has been shut down for remediation work on the site's rifle range.” (KITV.com, January 13, 2014)

The rifle (not pistol) range has been closed since December pending two safety projects that were to be completed prior to re-opening, *“Both of these improvements can be done fairly quickly; my goal here is to get it running again in a safe way,”* said Mayor Caldwell in December. Now the eyebrow work is complete and the progress on the berm reconstruction is moving forward but slowly. Since the entire range closed this month, the



public was told it would re-open on January 29th, but can we believe this date? This office and the many people who like and utilize Koko Head Shooting Range promise to keep a close eye on this issue and the re-opening of a range badly in need of repairs.

WARD OPPOSES SPEAKER SOUKI'S PENSION TAX ON SENIORS!

Rep Ward vehemently opposes a call made by Speaker of the House Joseph M. Souki to tax Hawaii's retirees as outlined in the Speaker's Opening Day speech.

Speaker Souki's call for a pension tax on old and well-off residents of Hawaii is like Governor Abercrombie's Pension Tax of 2011. It's simply unfair and a bad idea. People work hard their entire lives to build a retirement nest-egg and increasing taxes for older folks who have worked hard for financial success sends the wrong message to our youth that we will punish their achievements.



THIS MONTH'S BEER SUMMIT GUEST SPEAKER IS KAISER COUGAR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP FOOTBALL COACH RICH MIANO



BEER SUMMIT (with Rich Miano) - Thursday, February 6, 2014 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. - Kona Brewing Co. (outside on patio entrance)



COFFEE SUMMIT - Tuesday, February 4, 2014 - 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Zippys (inside far right corner)

Speak with Rep Ward in a relaxed and unstructured environment? Come to a “summit” at Koko Marina Shopping Center the first Tuesday and first Thursday of every month.

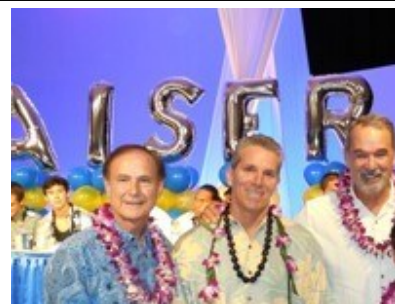
RESTROOM OPENING DELAYED AGAIN!

You've waited 3 years for repairs and now we're told the opening of the restrooms at Maunaloa Bay is being pushed back to early April of this year. Is this now sounding a little too familiar? Let's hope that this delay doesn't lead to another and another like the initial plans for repair. Hawaii Kai and its visitors shouldn't have to wait any longer to use these facilities. We have to expect more from government that 3 years to repair a restroom.



KAISER WINS STATE CHAMPIONSHIP!

After 34 years Rich Miano has done it again. The first time Mr. Miano “brought it home” was in 1979 with a Prep Bowl Championship playing for the Kaiser Cougars. Now, he's done it again as Head Coach of the Cougars. This past season,



Coach Miano led the Cougars to a 17-7 win against Kauai and led the league 8-0-0 and 13-1-0 overall. On January 18th the entire team along with Coach Miano, parents, teachers and friends, celebrated this victory with food, music and lots of laughs. The celebration also included a warm send off to graduating seniors and special guests, including NFL legends Russ Francis and Dick Tomey. Congratulations Coach Miano and Kaiser Cougars, we are so proud of you! Hana Hou!!!

Rep Ward, Coach Miano, and Russ Francis

“TO INFINITY AND BEYOND...!”

Hawaii is in a strategic position to tackle issues surrounding burgeoning technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs). That's why Rep Ward has taken the lead in founding the AeroSpace Caucus within the Hawaii Legislature. Hawaii faces some unique opportunities in the field of Aerospace. One example is



the three-state partnership between Hawaii, Alaska and Oregon that has been selected by the (FAA) to participate in researching UAV technology for commercial applications. Designing UAVs that can perform a wide variety of missions including agricultural work and weather forecasting presents **Hawaii with the opportunity to be a leader in a multi-billion dollar industry which could attract high-paying, stable jobs.** UAVs could even save lives by searching for victims after a natural disaster or tracking the movement of a shark lurking along popular beaches. In addition to Hawaii being a national test site, Hawaii has two emerging industries in space tourism and a lunar research park.