



Representative Gene Ward

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Monthly Report: NOVEMBER 2009

ROAD TO WAIMANALO CLOSED AT NIGHT ONLY

Following calls from area legislators, neighborhood boards and concerned citizens, the DOT announced in a briefing at the State Capitol on Nov. 19, 2009 (and later that evening in Waimanalo) that the Kalaniana'ole Highway Retaining Wall project that **THERE WILL BE NO DAYTIME LANE CLOSURES!**



The \$7.8 million project consists of various safety improvements including construction of a rockfall impact barrier, slope stabilization, pavement reconstruction, and installations of various electrical cables and conduits. The DOT made it clear that they understand the inconvenience, but they stressed that this project is needed, particularly for safety reasons. DOT Director, Brennon Morioka estimated that the improvements would last for another 75 years. The project is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2010 and road closures will end by September 2010.

The timing of nighttime closures will be Sunday through Thursday between 9:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m. The DOT says it will rarely close even one lane during the daytime hours unless there is no other option, and two weeks notices will be given to the public before any daytime closure occurs.

Full closures will begin in January of 2010. However, a week of test closures will take place between Nov. 29-Dec. 4 to allow the contractor to fi-

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KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:

-No Permits filed-



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Tuesday, November 24, 2009 that no application has been filed for development on Ka Iwi though rumors persist that the Hawaii Kai Golf Course has entered into discussions with a developer for construction of a golf academy which includes bungalows (cabins?). Stay tuned.

Furlough Fridays Cancelled?!

With Furlough Fridays in effect, Hawaii's public school students only have 163 school days per school year; this is the shortest school year in the nation and is considerably lower than the international average.

Rep. Ward strongly supports requiring a baseline number of school days per year, and this year's Minority Caucus Package will include a bill that sets this baseline at a minimum of 180 days per school year.



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(Continued from page 1) Furlough Fridays

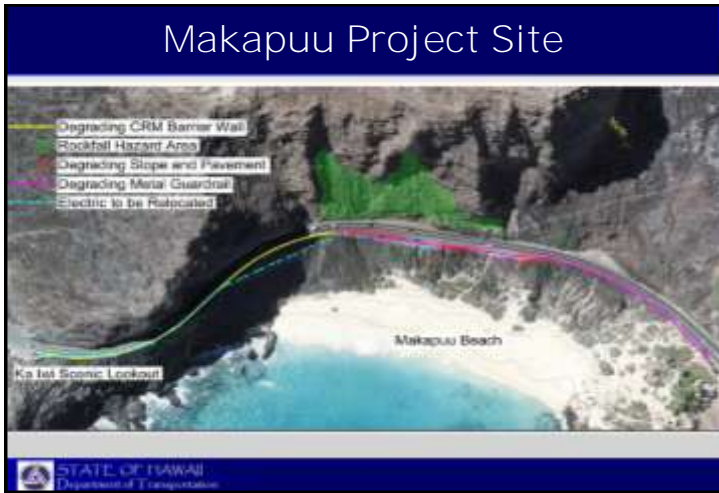


This bill, along with other suggestions on improving education and ending furloughs, was announced at a press conference held by the Republican Caucus

on Nov. 2 at the State Capitol. The Caucus stressed that there are other places besides the classroom to recover and secure funds; taking instructional time away from our keiki should never have been an option.

Rep. Ward fully supports Gov. Lingle's plan to use a mixture of professional development days and special funds to get children back to school. He has already signed the petition for a special session so the Legislature can act on these suggestions as soon as the contract has been reopened.

(Continued from page 1) Makapuu Road Closures



nalize designs and materials. Please contact Rep. Ward's office at 586-6420 if you'd like to weigh in on how well the DOT plan is conceived and keeping its word. "Hawaii Kai well remembers the early 1990's when the Kalaniana'ole Highway Widening Project had over 3 years of lane closures, frustration, and traffic jams. If the DOT can do what it says it can do with the Makapuu Retaining Wall, the community will be very grateful," Ward concluded.

For information and project updates see www.hawaii.gov/dot/makapuu.

MAUNALUA BAY SAFETY SOLUTIONS

A Town Hall Meeting was held on November 3, 2009, organized by Rep. Ward's office. The purpose of the meeting was to address safety issues in Maunalua Bay in response to Keahi Lum's fatal accident on October 4, 2009. In attendance were almost 90 members of the community, including Rep. Lyla Berg, DLNR Director Laura Thielen, Ed Underwood of the DLNR Boat Division, a representative from the U.S. Coast Guard, and Councilman Djou's office.

A list of doable no-cost or low-cost suggestions such as more signs on buoys regarding boat speed limits, enlarging no-wake areas and re-zoning certain areas



of the bay for swimmers and divers only to avoid use-conflicts were put forth at the meeting. However, the overwhelming sentiment appeared to be that the biggest issue facing Maunalua Bay users is a lack of enforcement of existing rules.

Hahaione Elementary School

Various ideas for legislation that would increase

funds for enforcement were suggested, but the DLNR and the Coast Guard stated that the most immediate course of action for the community to improve safety in the bay would be to join volunteer enforcement organizations such as DLNR's Makai Watch or the Coast Guard Auxiliary. Both organizations, modeled after the successful Neighborhood Watch program, train their volunteers to police the bay so violators can be more easily caught and prosecuted. Currently, Rep. Ward is awaiting a meeting with Malama Maunalua, which is DLNR's Makai Watch community contact. For more details on the program visit www.gene-ward.com. Community members wishing to join either group should call Beth at 586-6420.

EDUCATION TOWNHALL PLANNED

Rep. Ward's office will be seeking community feedback in a Town Hall Meeting in Mid-December. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the present furlough crisis and how legislators should proceed in the up-coming Special Session regarding ending public school furloughs. For more information call Beth at 586-6420.

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