



Representative

2014

Gene Ward

Minority Leader Emeritus



June 27 EXTRA!

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

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

Update on Kalaniana'ole Hwy Paving Delay

In my June report I started out saying, “**Ready or not, here it comes**” and suddenly nothing happened. **So why did the 2-year project not start?**

Because of the many concerns being raised about the project this week (June 23-27), the repaving project was put on hold. The project is slated to actually start next week following a briefing to the East Oahu elected officials by the Department of Transportation. The startup week however is likely to be just the setting up of barricades and plugging drains from run-off pollutants with little or no paving.

Many constituents have called or emailed me about the lane closures and particularly about **the length of time the project will take to pave just 4.2 miles of Kalaniana'ole Highway.**

What is known so far is that there will always be 2 lanes open in each direction with a contra-flow lane making it possible to pave two lanes in the same direction at the same time. Paving will be only 5 hours per day with 1-hour for ‘set-up’ and ‘take down’ so there will be no delays for morning rush hour (6-9 am) and afternoon rush hour (3-6 pm) according to the DOT.

What is NOT known so far however is why night construction is not even being considered



as an option-even for a small section of the highway. **We also don't know how traffic can possibly flow once the contractor (Grace Pacific) unplugs the traffic light synchronization system.** (Even with no lane closures, this can jam traffic up big time.) We also don't know where the 12 inches of soil and asphalt that will be extracted will be stockpiled.

These questions and many more should be answered following the briefing next week. Last-ly please know that the Director of Transportation, **Ford Fuchigami has personally agreed to attend a townhall meeting/community briefing** on the project with his entire DOT team and the repaving contractor, so please stay tuned for an upcoming announcement. In the meantime, keep stockpiling your questions and concerns and we'll be in touch. **My office number remains 586-6420 and my cell phone is 781-9931.**

Aloha!