

Gene Ward Appointed to East-West Center Board of Governors



Representative Gene Ward's office (R-Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley) today announced he has received a letter of appointment to the Board of Governors of the East-West Center by Governor Linda Lingle.

The East-West Center is located adjacent to the University of Hawaii on a 21-acre campus and is world renown for promoting better relations and understanding among the people of the United States, Asia, and the Pacific region through cooperative study, research, and dialogue.

“I am highly honored to be joining the board of such an esteemed institution of scholars, diplomats, and policy-makers and problem solvers. As the world gets smaller the importance of the East-West Center grows exponentially and I am very excited to begin my term of service before Hawaii hosts the APEC conference in November 2011,” Ward stated.

Ward is a former Peace Corps Country Director and Peace Corps Volunteer, as well as former United Nations staffer in Africa, as well as a small business development advisor in a dozen African and Asian countries. He also served as a Democracy Specialist if the foreign aid office of USAID in Washington, D.C.

Ward becomes the 2nd alumnus of the East West Center ever to serve on the board. He, like Board Chair Puanpon Sananikone, was a grantee at the center in the 1970's where met his wife and later received his Ph.D. at the University of Hawaii. He speaks fluent Indonesian and Malay, and was a former translator-interpreter in Vietnam. He and his wife, Faredah have one daughter, Johanna, age 15.

Rep. Ward will join 4 other gubernatorial appointees on the 15 member board; his 3-year term expires June 30, 2013.

Submitted by Michele Van Hessen