



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
STATE OF HAWAII
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PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WARD CALLS FOR COMMUNITY MEETING FOLLOWING TRAGIC BOATING ACCIDENT IN MAUNALUA BAY

Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today issued a call for all boaters, divers, jet skiers, canoers, and kayakers (see attached flier) to attend the Town Hall Meeting On Public Safety in Maunalua Bay following his initial announcement of the meeting last Sunday, October 11 during a KITV news broadcast on the fatal accident that killed Keahihoku Lum, (<http://www.kitv.com/news /21267862/detail.html>).

On October 4, 2009, Keahihoku Lum lost his life while scuba diving off of Hawaii Kai's popular dive spot, China Walls. His accident has intensified concerns that increased use of Maunalua Bay without regulation has created dangerous conditions for community recreation.

The purpose of the town hall meeting is to discuss public safety concerns in Maunalua Bay in lieu of the October 4 fatal accident.

Rep. Ward said, "We cannot allow this diver's death to be in vain. Our bay is becoming increasingly popular, and we need to find a way to keep it safe so this tragedy doesn't repeat itself."

The town hall meeting is set for **Tuesday, November 3, from 7 – 8:30 PM in the Hahaione School Cafeteria.**

Rep. Ward is encouraging DLNR, the US Coast Guard and all users of Maunalua Bay, including boaters, divers, kayakers, swimmers, fisherman and jet skiers, to attend the meeting to voice their opinions on "what is right and what is wrong about safety in Maunalua Bay."

"It is clear that something must be done to improve conditions in Maunalua Bay, but we need to hear from the community, especially those who frequent the bay, to determine what that course of action should be," Rep. Ward said.

Attachment

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