

# Hawaii Reporter

Freedom to Report Real News

---

## Rep. Gene Ward: Hawaii Superferry Should Sail

By Lori Wingard, 3/25/2009 11:41:08 AM



Rep. Gene Ward, (R-Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley) sent a letter of support to the Superferry today expressing both his disappointment and encouragement at this point of shut down.

"The purpose of this letter is send my regrets and disappointment juxtaposed to a note of enthusiasm for you to stay the course," Ward wrote to Tom Fargo, President and CEO of Hawaii Superferry. After a year of operations, the Hawaii Superferry ceased operations on Friday following the Hawaii State Supreme Court ruling that a state law allowing Hawaii Superferry to operate without a complete environmental impact statement was unconstitutional. "In an already slumping economy, the court ruling will hurt our small farmers and small businesses and impact the lives of residents and tourists as well," Ward said.

The Supreme Court ruling stated, "Our Constitution prohibits laws which provide disparate treatment intended to favor a specific individual, class, or entity or to discriminate against a specific individual, class, or entity is a fundamental principle of the democratic nature of government: equal rights and treatment for all persons under the law." Using this logic many legislative acts and bills are being called into question including mass transit legislation, a bill to extend the leases of a handful of settlers in Kahana Valley, as well as funding for a single clinic on the Waianae coast.

Despite the ruling, Rep. Gene Ward stated, "My constituents have overwhelmingly expressed their support for the continuation of the Superferry, and my office expresses its support and appreciation to the over 200 employees who were laid off from Hawaii Superferry."

Act 2, which passed in a special legislative session in 2007, allowed the Superferry to operate while conducting an environmental impact statement.

"Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley."

[Hawaii State Capitol News...](#)

© 2010 Hawaii Reporter, Inc.