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Rep. Ward Expresses Concern for Public Safety and Damage to Marine Eco-System with Proposed Shark Feeding off Moanalua Bay

By Lori Wingard, 4/9/2009 5:08:57 PM



Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today expressed concerns for the safety of recreational users at Maunalua Bay as well as the well being of the aquatic eco-system if shark-feeding was to be implemented in the bay.

"We have every kind of recreational user at Maunalua Bay, and I think attracting sharks to the area via a feeding operation could possibly endanger public safety," Ward said.

"I am also concerned that attracting sharks to a particular feeding area off Maunalua Bay could upset the balance of marine life we have in this part of the ocean," Ward added.

Any activity that disturbs the natural marine environment might promote a rapid and unwise exploitation and create untold effects on marine life. These practices could change the behavior of marine life, particularly the shark species, creating a safety risk to our community, boaters, paddlers, local fishermen and beachgoers.

Rep. Ward's office is working with community leaders and users of Maunalua Bay on putting together a town hall meeting about the shark feeding operation.

Rep. Ward has also written a letter to DLNR Director Laura Thielen seeking DLNR's expert advice on shark feeding operations and the Hawaii marine habitat and inviting her to the town hall meeting.

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

Lori Wingard is the office manager for Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai

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