

# Hawaii Reporter

## Freedom to Report Real News

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### **What Do Scott Brown, Susan Boyle and Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle Have in Common?**

By Michelle Van Hessen, 1/25/2010 3:19:19 PM

Hawaii Representative Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) today commended Gov. Linda Lingle on her State-of-the-State address, which he said, "reflects the spirit of both Susan Boyle and Scott Brown who, in the face of criticism and attacks, remained positive and stayed on course to achieving all their goals."

Similar to the House Republican Caucus' "Putting Families First" package, Gov. Linda Lingle's initiatives focused entirely on the economy and education. Among these initiatives are the establishing of a Fiscal Stabilization Fund, preparing for APEC 2011, income tax credits for jobs, an "on the job" apprenticeship program for the unemployed, mitigation of unemployment increases, a hotel renovation tax credit, and a proposal to place the Superintendent of the Department of Education in the Governor's Cabinet.

Rep. Ward also applauded Gov. Lingle for her use of Harry Truman's "the buck stops here" attitude that he believes is the only way the State of Hawaii will recover from the current crisis. Like Gov. Lingle, Rep. Ward said, "Government cannot continue to operate the way it has in the past. Lawmakers need to take the reins from special interest groups and others with personal agendas in order to guide the state to a better place that is safe, happy and profitable for our families."

Gov. Lingle also promised to work to make Hawaii a better place up to the very last minute of her remaining 315 days in office. Rep. Ward, who sees these remaining days as a golden opportunity for lawmakers to work with Gov. Lingle for the benefit of Hawaii's families, plans to create a visual countdown in his office as a reminder of this opportunity.

"She stuck to her knitting – didn't meander off course and stayed committed to leaving Hawaii a better place in 315 days," Rep. Ward concluded.

*Michelle Van Hessen is with the House Minority Research office.*

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