



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 15, 2010

Mr. Garrett Toguchi, Chairperson
Board of Education, State of Hawai'i
P.O. Box 2360
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96804

RE: PLEASE DO NOT CLOSE ANY HAWAII KAI SCHOOLS

Dear Chair Toguchi,

Thank you again for attending our Hawai'i Kai Townhall Forum in October concerning the Elected vs. Appointed Board of Education constitutional amendment.

As you know, on November 2, 2010 the citizens of Hawai'i voted overwhelmingly to allow the Governor of the State of Hawai'i to appoint members of the Board of Education.

With the inauguration of Governor Abercrombie on December 6, 2010, with an appointed board as one of its priority campaign items for prompt implementation, it would be unfair and unorthodox for the Board of Education to approve a school closure as one of its last acts of business before it is overshadowed by the appointed board.

The closing of Wailupe School took place over continuous dialogue with the 'Āina Haina – Niu Valley – Kuli'ou'ou communities for over 15 years. The Hawai'i Kai community was just informed of the Koko Head and Kamiloiki closings just a few weeks ago in the final quarter of 2010.

It has come to my attention that action on the Kaiser Complex Elementary Schools Consolidation Study may be placed on the January 2011 agenda. To close a school during the scheduled January 2011 Board of Education meeting would be entirely uncalled for and such a fast track decision should be avoided.

I appeal to you to do the right thing and forego any decision on this matter, thereby respecting the wishes of the over 30,000 residents of the Hawai'i Kai community.

Representative Gene Ward, Ph.D.
17th Legislative District
Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 318
415 South Beretania Street
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On behalf of the 17th District and the schools that I represent in the Hawai'i State Legislature, I ask the Board of Education to please remove this item from any future agenda. Mahalo nui loa.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gene Ward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Gene Ward
District 17, Hawaii Kai – Kalama Valley

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