



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

December 15, 2010

The Honorable Neil Abercrombie
Governor, State of Hawai'i
Executive Chambers, Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW A LAME DUCK BOARD OF EDUCATION TO FAST TRACK A SCHOOL CLOSURE IN HAWAII KAI

Dear Governor Abercrombie,

Thank you for your past support of an appointed school board and desire to see a change in the education system in Hawai'i. I'm writing to you today about the possible closure of Koko Head Elementary or Kamiloiki Elementary School in Hawai'i Kai and I'm asking that you intervene in this situation.

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 your inauguration on December 6, 2010, with an appointed board as one of your priority campaign items for prompt implementation, it would be entirely 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 recent closing of Wailupe School took place over continuous dialogue with the 'Āina Haina – Niu Valley – Kuli'ou'ou communities over a 15 year period. The Hawai'i Kai community was just informed of the Koko Head and Kamiloiki possible closings only a few weeks ago and could be implemented as soon as the first quarter of 2011.

It is possible 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 urge the Board of Education to 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
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Phone: 808-586-6420; Fax: 808-586-6421
Email: repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

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

On behalf of the 17th District and the schools that I represent in the Hawai'i State Legislature, I thank you and urge you to put a stop to these premature, unthought out actions with tremendously bad policy implications of closing one of the two of the best schools in Hawai'i.

This is a very urgent matter for the Hawai'i Kai community and I trust you will act within the same spirit of urgency to put a stop to these actions.

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

P.S. Please see attached "Top 10 Reasons to Keep Hawai'i Kai Schools Open."

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