

Representative

Gene Ward



2011

JANUARY Report

District 17 • Hawai'i Kai-Ka Iwi Coast-Kalama Valley • 586-6420

2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION OPENS !



Say Reelected Speaker with help of Republicans

Opening Day of the House on January 19th was **almost business as usual** excepting the election of the Speaker in the afternoon out of public view. In the end all worked out with all parties satisfied. Rep. **Ward immediately introduced bills** to address issues **facing our farmers** in Kamilonui Valley and their struggle with the Kamehameha Schools and unfavorable rent increase. Rep. Ward along with Rep. Barbara Marumoto introduced HB 189 which **changes the land use classification of Kamilonui Valley from urban to agricultural**. This bill will preserve rare ag lands in East Honolulu for future generations. **A complete list of bills will be presented in the next newsletter.**



Minority Leader's Opening Day speech

During his remarks, Rep. Ward outlined his caucus's **Legislative Package** and touched upon his group's **5 core values for the 2011 Session**:

"Ensure **taxes are not raised**, create an economic environment to help **small businesses thrive**, **create jobs** and attract **international investment**, **accelerate student learning**, **control government spending** and **maintain fiscal accountability**, and **reduce** the size and scope of **government** and **increase government accountability**." Copies of speech-call 586-6420.

SCHOOL CLOSURE ALERT !

A decision on **possible closure of Koko Head Elementary or Kamiloiki Elementary** is still **pending**. Rep. Ward has **asked Gov. Abercrombie** to intervene to **prohibit** the existing 'lame duck' Board of Education from even considering such a serious matter as one of its last acts in office. The Board skipped the topic in its **Jan.20 meeting** but there is another **scheduled meeting for February 3, 2011**. For **latest information** on the possible closures, please contact **586-6420**.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on **January 24, 2011** that **no applications** have been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

JOBS WATCH

Since the economic downturn in 2008 our biggest worry has been about jobs and when we're going to recover. The latest local unemployment figures show that the rate dropped to 5.8% for the State:

	<u>Nov. 2010</u>	<u>Dec. 2010</u>
Big Island	9.7%	8.7%
Maui	8.0%	7.3%
Moloka'i	12.8%	12.0%
Kaua'i	8.8%	7.9%
Lāna'i	6.0%	5.8%
O'ahu	5.4%	4.8%
STATE OF HAWAII	6.5%	5.8%
NATIONAL	9.3%	9.1%

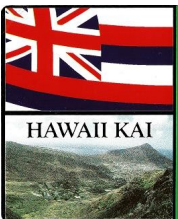
*Source: Hawai'i Dept of Labor Statistics, October 2010; These rates are not seasonally adjusted.

SAY & WARD ARGUE THE BUDGET



Rep. Ward was interviewed about the 2011 Legislature on Dan Boylan's "Island Insights" January 13th with Speaker Calvin Say, Senator David Ige, Chair—Ways & Means, & Andrew Aoki, Gov. Abercrombie's Deputy Chief of Staff.

HAWAII KAI FARMERS ALERT!



**KEEP THE VALLEY
VALLEY!**

SAVE KAMILONUI FARMLANDS

The coalition of Kamilonui Valley farmers continue their negotiations with the Kamehameha Schools. To show your support for the farmers you can email the school at ksinfo@ksbe.edu.

WANT AN E-NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION?

To receive an electronic copy, just call 586-6420

WARD OPPOSES POSTPONING ELECTIONS

The City and County of Honolulu's Neighborhood Commission (the body that manages Neighborhood Boards) considered a petition to extend the terms of neighborhood board members by two years on January 24, 2011. Rep. Ward believes this is a mockery of the democratic process and strongly opposes the proposal stating that the idea "goes against the will of the people in an effort to save the city money."

2011 LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Rep. Ward has finalized staffing assignments for the 2011 session. The following team members provide an eclectic range of abilities and experience for the benefit of the Republican Caucus and more importantly, House District 17:

Beth Fukumoto - Operations Manager - Ms. Fukumoto previously served as Rep. Ward's Chief of Staff, and now assists Rep. Ward in his role as Minority Leader by managing the Republican caucus. Ms. Fukumoto is a graduate of Georgetown University.

Lenny Klompus - Senior Advisor, Communications - Mr. Klompus assists Rep. Ward and the Republican caucus with media relations and previously served in this role with the Lingle Administration.

Jamé Schaedel - Chief of Staff - Mr. Schaedel performs the administrative functions of Rep. Ward's office and manages constituent concerns. Mr. Schaedel is a graduate of UH-Manoa and a Iraq war veteran.

Garvin Chun - Legislative Aide - Mr. Chun assists Rep. Ward with bill tracking, attends committee hearings and conducts policy research. Mr. Chun is an information systems professional with extensive experience in Hong Kong & the Asia-Pacific region.

Pamela Kam - Community Liaison - Ms. Kam works closely with Hawai'i Kai constituents in the community and assists Rep. Ward with handling and finding solutions to their concerns. Her phone number is 358-9145.

CONSTITUENT'S CORNER:

Numerous inquiries have been received regarding traffic on Kalaniana'ole Highway due to **sewer improvements in Aina Haina**. Lane closures will occur in both directions between Wa'a Street and Paiko Drive between 8:30am and 3:00pm daily through January 28th. Please contact our office if you believe that lane closures are occurring before and/or after the times above.

For road closure questions after January 28th, call DOT at 587-2160 or visit <http://tinyurl.com/yjcoq52>.