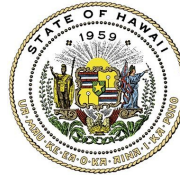


Representative Gene Ward



2011
JUNE
Report

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

AFTER THE 2011 SESSION

GAMING AT THE CAPITOL

WINNERS

LOSERS

News Media

Disclosures: HB 1376 is similar to a proposal by Rep. Gene Ward to protect journalists from having to disclose their confidential sources.

Photovoltaic, New Construction

Feasibility Study: SB 181 is a watered-down version of a 2010 proposal by DBEDT under the Lingle Administration to require new homes to be photovoltaic ready. This bill calls for a study.

Longer

Instructional Time in Schools: HB 945 delays certain required increases and plans for increases in instructional hours. Translation? We've give many of our schools a "hall pass" to get out of implementing required classroom time, and our students are left without the instruction they deserve.



Intent to Veto List Released by the Governor

Governor Abercrombie issued a list of 23 bills passed in the 2011 Session that he might veto. He has until July 12 to actually decide on which bills, if any, he will veto. Bills he has vetoed so far include:

- **HB 382: Granting the Legislative Auditor the Authority to Inspect Your Tax Returns:** The Governor vetoed HB 382 which would have granted the Legislative Auditor unrestricted access to review your tax returns.
- **SB 1416: Extending Safety Checks for New Cars:** The Governor also vetoed SB 1416 which would have allowed safety checks for new cars to be extended to three years from the date of purchase.

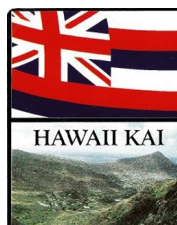
See reverse side for a partial listing of some of the more significant bills on the "Intent to Veto List."

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:



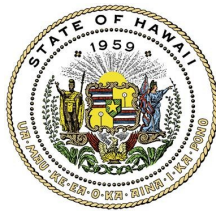
The City's Department of Planning and Permitting stated on May 26, 2011 that no applications have been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

HAWAI'I KAI FARMERS ALERT:



**KEEP THE VALLEY
VALLEY!**
SAVE KAMILONUI FARMLANDS

As of May 31, 2011, Kamilonui Valley Farmers are near final negotiations with the Kamehameha Schools (KSBE).



NEIL ABERCROMBIE, GOVERNOR
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 27, 2011

GOVERNOR SENDS NOTICE OF INTENT TO VETO 23 MEASURES

Honolulu - Governor Neil Abercrombie today notified the State Legislature of his intent to veto measures in which he finds either policy disagreement, issues with the details of the legislation, and/or unfunded mandates.

"With the input from many concerned citizens, I have put forward a list of bills that I am considering vetoing," Governor Abercrombie said. "Some of these measures will not work as they are written, despite their good intentions. Many others create additional work for our departments without any funding sources to carry them through. In these austere times, state agencies simply do not have the capacity to implement unfunded mandates that are not high priorities of our Administration."

The following is a sample of the measures on the notice of "intent to veto":

House Bill 56 allows the family court to award reasonable visitation rights to grandparents if the denial of visitation would cause significant harm to the child. This bill would make it more difficult for grandparents to visit their grandchildren.

House Bill 667 creates the food safety and security program within the Department of Agriculture. Although the Governor believes food safety is important, this bill does not provide any funding to implement the specified mandates, nor does it provide any authority to establish administrative rules.

House Bill 1134 repeals Part V of the Hawaii Prepaid Health Care Act and Act 99, Session Laws of Hawaii 1994, relating to the future termination of the prepaid health care law. Further investigation is needed on whether approval of this bill would have unintended consequences to Hawaii's *Employee Retirement Income Security Act* (ERISA) waiver.

House Bill 1405 requires the Office of Planning to establish a statewide system of greenways and trails. In developing this system, the Office is required to meet with various state departments and the counties and review systems of greenways and trails. The Office currently has a staff of six people that focus almost exclusively on meeting federal mandates. Effective implementation of this measure requires resources and funding that the Office does not currently have.

House Bill 1520 directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to investigate an On-Bill Financing Program for residential electric utility customers to finance purchases of energy efficient or renewable energy devices and systems through their regular electric utility bills.

Senate Bill 217 eliminates the statute of limitations for civil actions brought by victims of sexual offenses as a minor against the person who committed the act(s) and authorizes suits against a legal entity in certain circumstances. This bill appears to allow an employer, including the state, to be sued for the criminal acts of its employees. This is contrary to well-established tort and agency law and is in direct contravention of the State Tort Liability Act (STLA), Chapter 662 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Senate Bill 1493 requires all new and replacement lights to be fully shielded. This is a noteworthy goal given the effects of night lighting on our native wildlife, astronomy and night viewing activities. However, the funding implications of this mandate are potentially enormous given federal lighting standards for our highways.

Governor Abercrombie continues to review legislative bills that he must either veto or sign into law by July 12, 2011.