



Representative

Gene Ward

House Minority Leader



2012
January
Report

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

Minority Leader's Opening Day Speech



In his opening day speech, Rep. Ward outlined the House Minority Caucus' four priorities for the 2012 legislative session: encourage job creation instead of discouraging it; create certainty and build confidence and understanding among Hawai'i's people; ensure government accountability and transparency; and protect communities, particularly against cyber-crime. The video and full text of his speech can be found on www.gene-ward.com.

The 2012 Caucus Package



The House Minority Caucus' 2012 Legislative Package includes a four-step recovery plan that focuses on job creation and retention, government accountability and transparency, reducing the cost of living, and combating cybercrime.

In response to the rising tide of unemployment, the caucus introduced two bills that make it easier for businesses to hire new employees. One provides a tax credit to businesses that hire people who qualify for unemployment benefits and the other reduces a scheduled increase in the unemployment tax. The caucus also introduced bills to encourage green job creation through biofuel tax credits and a program that lets property owners pay for the installation of solar panels over time through property taxes.

To improve accountability and transparency, the caucus proposed requiring the auditor's reports on special funds to be followed by legislation to implement the auditor's recommendations. The caucus also called for requiring the disclosure of all candidates for government appointments, particularly judges.

The caucus' plan to reduce the cost of living involves the creation of a diabetes task force to promote healthier living. In addition to helping to save lives, this would help to significantly decrease state spending on healthcare.

Effectively combating cybercrime requires updating laws to better reflect how cybercrimes are committed. The caucus' package includes bills that make the appropriate adjustments and allows for harsher penalties.

The video of the press conference the package was presented during can be found at <http://youtu.be/q-0zpsjjxE>.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:



The City's Department of Planning and Permitting stated on Jan. 20, 2012 that no applications have been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

Attention Kalama Valley/Hawaii Kai Constituents

For the first time in the center's over 25-year history, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate is asking for community suggestions on how to reutilize/revitalize the Kalama Valley Shopping Center. KS/BE just assumed full ownership and operation of the shopping center after its leases expired last month.



What would be the best use of the Kalama Valley Shopping Center?

Arts/Leisure?

- Urban arts center
- Theater (stage)
- Community center
- Pet activity center

Shopping?

- Farmer's market
- Restaurants
- Organic food stores

Education?

- Make it part of the University of Hawaii
- Make it part of Hawaii Pacific University
- Preschool/Early Childhood Education
- Space for after-school programs
- Sustainability center

Other?

- Daycare center
- Housing/condos
- Solar farm
- Tech park for sustainable businesses

These are just a few suggestions. Please email your ideas for how you would like KS/BE to use the space to s.fukumoto@capitol.hawaii.gov.

Veterans Preference Bill



The House Minority Caucus package also included a veterans preference bill. The caucus visited Mike McKenna's Windward Ford dealership to announce its proposal to grant a 4.5 to 5 percent preference to Hawaii-based, veteran-owned small businesses in the state's procurement process.

Ward's "Driverless Car" Bill



Rep. Ward's legislative package includes a bill that would allow driverless cars to be tested in Hawaii. Such cars would help to improve safety as well as increase road capacity and fuel efficiency.

Above is a Prius outfitted by Google with everything it needs to navigate autonomously. Mounted prominently on its roof is a LIDAR (light detection and ranging) sensor, which is used to create a 3D map of the car's surroundings. Google's cars have driven over 100,000 miles without human intervention or causing any accidents. To watch a video of one of Google's driverless cars in action, visit <http://youtu.be/4zOFNTkxMvQ>.



Scan the barcode to left with your Smartphone!

Or visit us on the web at: www.gene-ward.com

WANT AN E-NEWSLETTER DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME? Just call 586-6420

Speaker Say and Minority Leader Ward face-off



Host Dan Boylan talked about some of the major issues of the 2012 session with a panel that included House Speaker Calvin Say and Rep. Ward on PBS' "Insights." The episode can be viewed online at <http://vimeo.com/35385903>.

Kaiser High School Interview



Rep. Ward was interviewed on Opening Day by Kaiser High School student Bryston Nham. (The camera did not break.)

Constituent's Corner

- There will be a Town Hall Meeting about problems with the Mariner's Ridge hiking trail on February 14 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Hahaione Elementary School.
- Two portable toilets have been placed in the parking area of the Mauanalua Bay launch ramp while the Department of Design and Construction designs a new wastewater system at Mauanalua Bay and seeks approval to connect to an existing private sewer system. Construction should be complete in early 2013 — can you believe it!?
- The Kalaniana'ole Highway Widening project for the area between Keahole Street and Hawaii Kai Drive should be completed by early April. Drains, sidewalks and curbs have already been installed.
- Have any announcements or advice for your neighbors in District 17? Call Sarah at 586-6420.

Hawaii-Fukuoka Sister Legislature relationship



On the opening day of the 2012 legislature, House and Senate members of the Hawaii State Legislature met with representatives from Fukuoka, Japan to commemorate the 30-year Hawaii-Fukuoka Sister Legislature relationship. House Speaker Calvin Say and Senate President Shan Tsutsui, along with others, signed an Affirmation of the Sister relationship. Representative Ward, as the House Minority Leader, attended as a key witness. The commemoration also included an omiyage (gift) exchange.

Rep. Ward acknowledged the representatives from Japan in his opening day speech. Then, during the celebration following the opening session, he shared his unforgettable experience in Japan, which included a visit to the Toyota factory and tour of Fukuoka as a member of the U.S. APEC delegation in the 1990s.

The commemoration and celebration was a great time to reflect upon the strong bond between Hawaii and Japan. Rep. Ward described our relationship with Japan as “one of the key foreign relation partnerships and one of the strongest the United States has in the world.”

Hawaii’s sister relationship with the Fukuoka Prefecture was the state’s first sister relationship. There have been numerous exchanges between Hawaii and Fukuoka since the sister relationship was established in 1981, including trade shows in Japan that showcased Hawaii’s culture and products made in Hawaii. In 1996, the state signed an exchange agree-

ment that included a Fukuoka official being assigned to the Office of the Governor with duties that included translation services and studying the structure of Hawaii’s government. An official from Hawaii was also assigned to Fukuoka.

Including Fukuoka, Hawaii has sister relations with four prefectures in Japan and a total of 15 sister relations worldwide.

Right: omiyage exchange.
Below: Rep. Ward as a key witness to the affirmation signing.

