

Representative

Gene Ward



2011

FEBRUARY Report

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

UPDATE ON THE 2011 LEGISLATURE

Legislative Issues - Examples of Bills Introduced

- | | |
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| HB 1646 EDUCATION
Prohibits the BOE from closing schools that meet NCLB standards | HB 180 SENIOR CITIZENS
Creates and food excise tax credit, and a medical services tax credit for senior citizens |
| HB 1644 SHARK FEEDING
Imposes penalties for illegal shark feeding | HB 179 TAXATION
Tax credit for businesses that hire senior citizens |
| HB 189 KAMILONUI VALLEY
Changes land use classification from urban to agricultural | HB 177 APPLIED COMMUNITY RESEARCH
Establish an office of applied community research at UH |
| HB 190 KA IWI
Purchases land along Ka Iwi that is in danger of being developed | HB 176 HOUSING CRISIS
Study how Singapore solved its housing crisis and how it can be applied to Hawaii |
| HB 1360 HARBORMASTER
Appropriates funds for a harbormaster at Maunalua Bay | HB 183 GET (GENERAL EXCISE TAX)
Five year GET exemption for small business manufacturing |
| HB 1648 CIP
Appropriates funds for CIP projects at district schools and Maunalua Bay | HB 181 SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Requires use of helmets while riding mopeds |
| HB 182 ELDERLY CARE TAX CREDIT
Provides a tax credit for those who care for elderly relatives | HB 1647 DISCLOSURE
Constitutional amendment that requires disclosure of judicial nominees |
| HB 178 GENERAL EXCISE TAX
Removes limitations on the GET exemption for hospitals, infirmaries, etc | HB 187 RECALL
Proposes an amendment to the Constitution to recall public officials |
| HB 188 TAXATION
Provides a tax credit for companies that mentor students in STEM programs | |

MOKUHANO CLUSTER DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

On February 17, 2011, the City and County of Honolulu informed our office that the developer ("Pololei Partners, LLC") submitted revised drawings/plans of the proposed Mokuhanoo Cluster Development, per the requirements of the Department of Planning and Permitting's conditional approval. These drawings/plans are currently **under review** by the department.

KA IWI WATCH UPDATE:



The Department of Planning and Permitting stated on **February 22, 2011** that **no applications** have been filed for development on Ka Iwi.

JOBS WATCH

Things are looking slightly better since the economic downturn in 2008. The latest local unemployment figures show that the rate dropped to 5.8% for the State compared to 9.1% for the mainland:

	Nov. 2010	Dec. 2010
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%

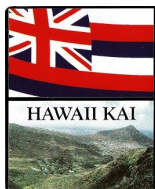
*Source: Hawai'i Dept of Labor Statistics, January 2011; These rates are not seasonally adjusted.

WARD ATTENDS SCIENCE FAIR



Rep. Ward visited **Niu Valley Middle School** students participating in the Complex Area Middle School Science Fair held at Kapiolani Community College on Saturday, February 12, 2011. Job well done to Chad on his project "Clean Power for Both Car Enthusiasts and Environmentalists."

HAWAII KAI FARMERS ALERT!



KEEP THE VALLEY VALLEY!
SAVE KAMILONUI FARMLANDS

Rep. Ward continues to meet with farmers as negotiations continue with Kamehameha Schools. Detailed information is available by watching the townhall videos listed above.

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TOWNHALL ON THE 2011 LEGISLATURE



Representative Ward and Senator Slom hosted a joint townhall meeting on Tuesday, February 15, 2011 to provide the community with an update on the 2011 Legislature, school closures, and the Kamilonui Valley farmers. In case you missed the meeting, you can watch a video by visiting the links below:

Part 1: <http://tinyurl.com/4m4jj2u>

Part 2: <http://tinyurl.com/49wan6g>

KOKO HEAD TENNIS COURTS REOPEN!



You spoke up and the City and County of Honolulu listened! Though it took way too long to get the job done. There has been a "soft opening" of the Koko Head District Park tennis courts. There were several people utilizing the facility when the photo above was taken on Sunday, February 20, 2011. If you have constituent concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at 586-6420 or via e-mail at repward@capitol.hawaii.gov. Mahalo!