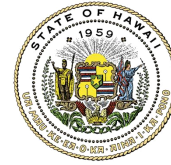


Representative

2015

Gene Ward



November Report

Minority Leader Emeritus

Co-Chair Small Business Caucus and AeroSpace Caucus

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

www.gene-ward.com • www.facebook.com/repward • 586-6420 • repward@capitol.hawaii.gov

Dengue Confirmed in Hawaii Kai

Please don't consider this headline an over-reaction to the dengue fever outbreak on the Big Island and the case that was confirmed in Kalama Valley. This warning to our community is very personal to me and my family because we have been through the pain and dangers of dengue and malaria. In particular **my 15 year-old niece was found bleeding through her eyes during an outbreak of dengue in Kuala Lumpur over a year ago.** While **children are the worst hit by dengue**, my sister-in-law also contracted the disease in an upscale suburban environment of KL. While serving in the UN in Africa I contracted malaria 3 times and know the head and bone pains that these diseases bring.

As of November 24th, 93 cases of dengue fever have already been confirmed on Hawaii Island. **The Hawaii Health Department has launched a campaign called "FIGHT THE BITE" to educate Hawaii residents** on how to prevent further outbreak of dengue fever and to lesson the chance of contamination (See <http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/dengue-outbreak-2015/>). The Health Department also proceeded to spray 10 Big Island schools.

Only one suspected case of dengue has been discovered on Oahu, in our own Kalama Valley. According to conversations with our office, the Health Dept. **has conducted surveillance of Kalama Valley and found zero traces of dengue fever or anything that would create an environment of future breeding.** According to Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist, there is a very low chance of Hawaii Kai or any part of East Oahu getting dengue fever due to the trade winds and lack of abandoned buildings, disregarded belongings or overgrown foliage. The mosquitos that carry dengue fever are categorized as "day biters" and the chances of dengue spreading are said to minimal. With that good news, the DOH just left flyers on door knobs in the area explaining how to prevent mosquitos and an explanation of the symptoms.

The last outbreak of dengue fever on Oahu was in 2001 with 153 cases, so all of us need to take these warnings to heart, dengue can pop-up again on our island where 8 million tourists sojourned last year.

Dengue fever is a mosquito-borne disease transmitted to humans through the bite of an infected mosquito. Symptoms typically begin in seven days and include high fever, headache, nausea, muscle aches, severe bone and joint pain and a red rash. Bed rest and acetaminophen are recommended. Early Hawaiians called these mosquitos "flying needles." The dengue carrier is the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito which lives for about 2-4 weeks and can travel about a 1/4 mile in its lifetime. So now is the time to stomp out any new carriers in our community by reducing any mosquito breeding grounds in Hawaii Kai. Our office will continue monitoring the situation and ask that you call our office if you see mosquito breeding grounds that need treatment. **Let's all be good neighbors and not let these 'flying needles' stick us again in Hawaii Kai!**

Fight the bite

Help Eliminate Mosquitos

Here are a few ways you can get rid of standing water and reduce the number of mosquitos around your home or property.



For updates about the Dengue fever in Hawaii visit www.health.hawaii.gov

