



Gil Riviere®

House District 46 - North Shore

GilRiviere.com

Gil Gets it Done!

WITH YOUR HELP, GIL WILL BE AN EVEN GREATER ADVOCATE FOR OUR DISTRICT.

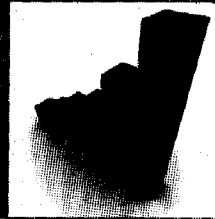
Join the team at GilRiviere.com

Mokuleia, Waialua, Haleiwa, Kawailoa, Pupukea, Sunset Beach, Kawela,
Kuilima, Kahuku, Laie, Poamoho, Schofield, Wheeler, Kunia Camp.

**Gil Riviere Has a Proven
Track Record of Success Leading:**

Keep the North Shore Country • Waialua Little League

Let's Surf Coalition • Neighborhood Board Traffic Committee



To the residents of the North Shore:

Over the next few months, I would like to share some of my thoughts about current issues and I hope you will share your thoughts, both positive and negative, by calling me at 220-2280 or emailing Gil@GilRiviere.com. Sincerely, Gil Riviere

Agriculture

The North Shore has possibly the best agricultural lands and weather in the world, yet tens of thousands of acres have remained fallow since the demise of big sugar and pineapple. Diversified farmers are growing some fresh produce, but less than 15 percent of the food consumed in Hawaii is grown locally.

The last dairy farm on Oahu closed in 2008 because it could no longer afford imported feed and it could not secure a long term lease to range feed the cattle. Now, our imported milk is double pasteurized, first on the mainland, and again when it arrives in Hawaii.

Most of our beef, pork and chicken comes from as far away as New Zealand, Australia and the other side of the United States. Hawaii has never been more dependent on imported food, but there is hope.

A new dairy is planned on 1400 acres of former Hamakua Sugar lands on Hawaii Island. Its business model includes grazing rather than dependence on expensive imported feed. This type of activity is best suited for certain agricultural lands while food crop production is better suited in other areas. Agricultural activity can mean many things.

"Local Food Production for Local Food Consumption" is a statement that helps focus on the need and benefits of promoting local food crops. Hawaii has done well in branding coffee, macadamia nuts and certain other products, so why not Hawaiian grown vegetables, fruits and other foods?

Given the opportunity to purchase fresh, locally grown produce at reasonable prices, people support local farmers. However, as popular and desirable as they are, farmers' markets make up a small percentage of fresh food sales and they cost farmers valuable time away from their farms. The key to getting more local food onto more kitchen tables is to get more of it into the supermarket, but our farmers are not producing enough to fill the need.

One simple way to support local agriculture is to buy locally produced eggs. All eggs imported from the mainland are stamped "U.S." By opening the carton and making sure the eggs do not have this stamp, you will be buying local eggs which are fresher and you will directly support local producers.

The North Shore can become Hawaii's breadbasket if we have committed leadership in our Legislature and an effective representative who advocates for protecting prime agricultural lands, for ensuring a long term commitment to the land through long term leases, for improving agricultural infrastructure, for reducing the high cost of shipping for our farmers, and for helping promote local food production as a priority.