



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: NO BACK DOOR TAX INCREASE WITH GARBAGE FEES**

Yesterday, the Public Infrastructure Committee advanced Resolution 09-123, introduced by Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu). The resolution encouraged the administration to examine a “pay-as-you-throw” garbage collection fee system, but only with a commensurate reduction in real property taxes.

“All of the neighbor islands and most U.S. cities have adopted a pay-as-you-throw garbage fee system, while on Oahu this has traditionally been paid for by real property taxes. A garbage collection fee system deserves attention, but only so long as it doesn’t become a back door tax increase,” stated Councilmember Djou. “I am concerned that the Hannemann administration may move to institute a garbage collection fee as yet another cash-grab on local families’ bank accounts. That’s why I’m pushing this resolution that encourages an examination of such a fee system, but ties it to a commensurate reduction in property taxes.”

The Hannemann administration has floated the idea of collecting \$20/month per family for the City to collect garbage. Councilmember Djou has made it repeatedly clear that such a system will work only if it does not result in any net increase in taxes.

A “pay-as-you-throw” system has been effectively used in multiple cities across the nation and often has been privatized to achieve greater efficiency and cost-savings for taxpayers.

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