



# CITY COUNCIL

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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### **COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: NO ON MORE TAX INCREASES IN A RECESSION**

Today, Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) vigorously opposed all tax increase proposals in the City Budget Committee.

“At the start of this decade, when times were so-so, the City raised taxes. During the middle of this decade, when times were good, the City dramatically raised taxes. Now that times are bad, the City is again looking at raising taxes. The one thing that never seems to go out of style at City Hall is raising taxes,” stated Councilmember Djou. “During this economic recession, the last thing the people can afford is yet another round of tax increases by the City. It is time the City actually looked at cutting spending rather than always constantly look to taking more and more money from the people.”

The City Council is considering proposals introduced by Mayor Hannemann to increase numerous taxes and fees, including a 9% increase in the real property tax and a 30% increase in the vehicle tax. The City Council is also entertaining a proposal to increase the gasoline tax. Today, the Budget Committee deferred action on increasing taxes to Monday.

Since Mufi Hannemann became mayor, total City spending has exploded from \$1.5 bil. in 2005 to a whopping \$3.5 bil. for next year. Councilmember Djou has opposed every tax increase proposed at Honolulu Hale since he took office and will continue to fight all tax increases.

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