



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: COUNCILMEMBERS SHOULD REDUCE PERSONAL EXPENSES

Today, the City Council Budget Committee partially agreed to a proposal by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) to reduce the personal expense accounts by councilmembers paid for by taxpayers.

“As every family is tightening their expenditures in this recession, so should every member of the City Council. I proposed a reduction of our personal expense accounts by 50%, but support the more limited amendment to merely reduce our expense accounts by 11% from about \$19,000/year to about \$17,000/year,” stated Councilmember Djou. “I am happy the Budget Committee agrees with me that the council can do more to tighten its own fiscal belt.”

Currently, the personal expense accounts for Honolulu City Councilmembers are the richest in Hawaii for legislative officials. Councilmember Djou is proud to consistently return over half of his personal expense account back to the taxpayers. Taxpayer-financed personal expense accounts are a major symbolic matter showing individual accountability and responsibility of government officials. The British government is currently embroiled in a scandal during this economic recession because of excessive spending by members of parliament.

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