



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 24, 2009

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: PUT CITY HALL ON A FISCAL DIET

Today, Honolulu Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) introduced four bills as part of a fiscal responsibility legislative package. These bills are aimed at improving the accountability and transparency of the City's budget and spending of taxpayer dollars.

"This past year's City budget saga showed numerous challenges to properly accounting for the people's money at City Hall. With these difficult economic times, the City government simply cannot continue budgeting the same old way. Consequently, I have introduced a package of measures to renew a sense of fiscal accountability at Honolulu Hale and return a sense of confidence by taxpayers in the City budget process," stated Councilmember Djou. Djou's package includes:

- **Expenditure Ceiling-** This limits the growth of the City's annual operating budget to the greater of the percentage increase of population growth plus inflation or the average annual growth rate in the real property tax base for the past three years.
- **Debt Ceiling -** This measure limits annual debt service payments to no more than 20% of the average general fund revenues.
- **Online City Checkbook -** This bill, modeled on similar legislation in other cities and states, establishes a public searchable online data base that lists all City expenditures.
- **Voluntary Tax Payments-** This measure sets up a process for taxpayers to voluntarily pay more taxes to the city.

Councilmember Djou added, "If enacted, this package of bills will force the City government to live within its means the same way families do. People will be given the ability to clearly see how their hard-earned tax dollars are being spent by the City, and individually decide if it is being spent wisely."

Djou's fiscal responsibility package was introduced today and will go to first reading by the Honolulu City Council on July 15.

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