



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Chair, Intergovernmental Affairs Committee

Phone: (808) 768-5004 / Facsimile: (808) 768-5011

Email: cdjou@honolulu.gov

Web: www.honolulu.gov/council/d4

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For More Information, Please Contact:
Councilmember Charles K. Djou
Phone: (808) 265-2858

**COUNCILMEMBER DJOU:
\$10 MILLION SOLAR ENERGY BOND ACCEPTED TO INSTALL SOLAR AND
ENERGY EFFICIENT TECHNOLOGIES IN HONOLULU**

Yesterday, the Budget Committee accepted a \$10 million solar bond measure proposed by Honolulu City Councilman Charles K. Djou to be included in the FY09 Honolulu City Budget. This measure to install solar and energy efficient technologies on city-owned buildings will enable the City & County of Honolulu to run city government on clean, renewable energy, and pay for the systems through lower utility bills. The solar bond measure is modeled after San Francisco's 2001 \$100 million solar bond initiative measure.

"With soaring gas prices and utility costs, it is now even more important to improve energy efficiency in our community wherever we can," stated Councilmember Djou. "This is a good idea that helps the environment, saves energy and doesn't cost the taxpayers."

In addition to the immediate utility bill savings, solar also provides a hedge against future energy price fluctuations. Hawaii is highly dependent on imported fossil fuels, and Djou's solar bond measure helps the City diversifying its energy portfolio. With no operating costs, solar provides electricity at a fixed rate, and would help the City become more energy independent.

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