



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: CITY MUST NOW DISCLOSE ITS PROPAGANDA

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu) reacted to Mayor Mufi Hannemann allowing Bill 29, CD2, FD1, introduced by Councilmember Djou, to become law without his signature. Bill 29 requires the City to clearly state in any television, radio or newspaper advertisement purchased with taxpayer funds state that such advertising is 'Paid for by City taxpayers.'

"Propaganda is a tool favored by all governments to manipulate the population. In our democracy, however, the government should disclose to the public when the government is using the people's money to try to influence the people," stated Councilmember Djou. "I am disappointed in the mayor's refusal to accept that the people should know how he's spending their money, but I am pleased that this measure will nevertheless become law. City taxpayers will now know when their government is using their money for marketing directed at them."

Bill 29 passed the City Council on June 4th with no opposition from any councilmembers. Djou's bill requires the City government to match the practices of the Federal and State governments by disclosing to the public that City tax money was used in any paid advertising. Djou's measure excludes public service announcements.

In recent months, the Hannemann administration has spent hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars in paid advertising and public relations touting the City's proposed rail transit system. There is no disclosure that City taxpayers paid for any of the propaganda purchased thus far.

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