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AUDIT CRITICAL OF CITY ON ENERGY MANAGEMENT

Today, the Honolulu City Auditor released a management audit of the Hannemann administration's energy management. The audit was conducted pursuant to Resolution 06-144, introduced by Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu).

The audit revealed that the City's energy usage only increased by 5.7% from FY2003 to FY2007, but the City's electricity bill increased by a whopping 44% over the same period. The audit further criticized the administration for failing to designate a single energy "czar" to oversee the City's energy usage.

"The auditor's report gives the public a useful benchmark to measure the City's future energy usage. The audit also further confirms my impression that the Hannemann administration's decision to dismiss the Harris administration's energy 'czar', former City Councilmember Steve Holmes, and eliminate his position, was a mistake," stated Councilmember Djou. "In a time of ever-increasing energy costs, the City should designate one person responsible for all municipal energy usage and constantly investigate methods of reducing energy costs."

Former Councilmember Holmes' position as the energy and sustainability coordinator for the City during the Harris administration was largely paid for out of Federal funds and the position more than covered any tax expenditures through reduced energy costs. Mr. Holmes estimates his office saved the City taxpayers an average of \$7 million per year in energy expenses. Dismissal of Mr. Holmes and abolition of his office was one of the first acts of the Hannemann administration. Councilmember Holmes can be reached at (571) 918-0840.

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