



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-3065/Telephone 547-7000

Charles K. Djou

Councilmember, District IV

Phone: (808) 547-7004 / Facsimile: (808) 523-4220

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

COUNCIL COMMITTEE ASKS ALEX SANTIAGO TO SHOW UP FOR WORK

Today, the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee of the Honolulu City Council agreed to transmit a letter to the Council's Legislative Liaison, Alex Santiago, asking him to appear before the Honolulu City Council.

"City taxpayers are paying Alex Santiago a monthly salary greater than what I get paid as a Council Member, and it is amazing that we still need to send him a letter asking him to show up for work. I am disappointed that Mr. Santiago, could not find the time to attend a hearing to tell the public what he's doing and what he plans to do in the future for \$4,200 a month," stated Councilmember Djou. "There is absolutely no good reason for Mr. Santiago to refuse to make time to answer questions about how he's spending the people's money."

Alex Santiago, the former state representative and Chair of the Hawaii Democratic Party, was retained by Council Chair Barbara Marshall at the end of June to serve as the "legislative liaison" for the Honolulu City Council to the Hawaii State Legislature. Santiago's contract calls for him to be paid, with taxpayer funds, \$4,166.66 per month or \$49,999.99 per year, with the first payment made on July 28, 2007. Honolulu City Council Members are paid \$49,245.00 per year and members of the Hawaii Legislature are paid a salary of \$37,500.00 per year. The City and County of Honolulu already has a paid lobbyist for City issues as the Hawaii State Association of Counties has a lobbyist for county council issues. The Hawaii Legislature has been in recess since May.

Under his contract, Mr. Santiago will be considered a part-time consultant and will not testify or conduct any actual lobbying for the Honolulu City Council. Mr. Santiago will only provide consulting advice to City Council Members about the Hawaii State Legislature.

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