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April Foolish Legislation

Silly Laws the Majority Wants to Enact

By Rep. Gene Ward, 4/1/2008 7:47:05 AM

April has always been the time for pranks, practical jokes, riddles and absurdity. The 24th Legislative Session has provided its own dose of unbelievable hijinks, however without the hilarity. Here are three examples:

SB2828 -- Disaster Relief -- Imagine padlocking the doors of the fire house in such a way that no single person has the combination. This is what SB2828 would do to the Governor. She would not be able to respond to any type of emergency, e.g. earthquake, tsunami, hurricane, terrorist attack, without the legislature being called into special session and agreeing that there is an emergency. This could cost billions of dollars in avoidable damage and thousands of lives. IFOL-phobia runs rampant again.

HB3013/SB2898 -- Elect the President by National Popular Vote -- Hawaii is one of the smaller states in the union, yet we still have four electoral college votes. This gives Hawaii as much or more votes than 24 percent of the nation. This bill would give us about as much influence as one suburb of Washington, DC, effectively disenfranchising our state and our people.

SB2824 -- Random Audits -- This bill calls for the random audit of state government, EXCEPT the judiciary, the legislature, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Counties. In other words, this bill only would require an audit of State Procurement Office and the Executive Branch. In other words, if your branch of government is dominated by Democrats, you won't be audited.

April is the last chance for this Legislature to get serious and help the people of Hawaii, yet they continue to argue about ways to limit the Executive Branch and further disenfranchise the people of this state. Those of us in the Minority will not let the foolishness of the Majority Party remain unanswered.

Gene Ward, Republican, is a Hawaii state Representative and a coordinator for the McCain campaign for President.

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