

Hawaii Reporter

Freedom to Report Real News

Gov. Lingle, Veto This Tax Hike Bill

By Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai, 4/23/2009 3:09:00 PM



Today I expressed my alarm over passage of S.B. 1111 which raises the hotel room tax by 28% (27.58%).

This bumps the TAT tax from 7.25% to 9.25% and if you add the 4.71% G.E.T. tax, it means the hotel room tax is now 14 cents (13.9%) on every dollar.

In my House Floor speech, I urged legislators to listen to the professionals in the visitor industry who know better than many politicians who are on a tax raising binge this legislative session.

The entire industry cautioned us against a tax increase; visitor counts are already on the decline and to raise taxes on visitors would hinder our tourism industry even further.

I am calling on the governor: "Governor Lingle - veto this bill!"

And I along with the House Republican Caucus voted no to increase the hotel room tax. *Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives*

[Capitol Thoughts...](#)

© 2010 Hawaii Reporter, Inc.