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Hawaii State Retirees' Pensions Should Not Be Taxed

By Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai, 3/30/2009 8:38:47 AM



In an increasingly slumping economy where taxpayers are already overburdened, Senate Bill 971, relating to conformity of the Hawaii Income Tax Law to the Internal Revenue Code, advanced out of House Finance Committee this week.

There is nothing wrong conforming Hawaii's code to the IRS code, but how this measure added a tax on pensions got snuck in there is the poison pill in this piece of legislation.

The House Finance Committee was wrong to include a tax on pensions as a means to help balance the budget.

The elderly and all retired military officers who retired here thinking their pensions would not be taxed will be totally surprised by this bill.

This is a bad bill and we need to alert the public, particularly our senior citizens and veteran retirees. SB 971 is expected to be heard in conference committee over the next few weeks. The 2009 Legislative Session ends May 7th.

Rep. Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) is a member of the House finance committee

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