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Hawaii's Hurricane Relief Fund and An Interactive State Budget

By Gene Ward, 4/15/2010 7:31:46 AM



When this session started, I had two major goals in mind, ending school furloughs and balancing the State budget without raising taxes.

With less than three weeks left of session, we're still scrambling for solutions. One suggestion is to fund an end to school furloughs with the Hurricane Relief Fund. I believe getting children back in school should be our highest priority, however I don't believe the fund should be raided, it should be borrowed from to restore furlough Fridays.

I felt so strongly that the hurricane fund be preserved that I introduced an amendment to the measure on the floor of the House on April 6, 2010.

If interested on how my colleagues voted on this issue, please take a look at the video of the floor debate that took place and the final vote on the amendment by the House of Representatives:
<http://www.youtube.com/user/TBERGHAWAII#p/a/u/0/TOQjaq3rYsE>

It may also be of interest to you to know that the House Republican Caucus recently released an interactive version of the State Budget along with our suggestions to balance the budget without tax increases.

We make cuts to end wasteful spending but preserve essential services to our most vulnerable populations. We also repay the Hurricane Relief Fund. If you're interested in the budget, I strongly suggest you visit <http://www.gene-ward.com/budget> to try creating your own version of the state budget or to take a look at ours.

Don't let anyone tell you that we have to raise taxes until they have viewed this budget and refute it premises.

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