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Hurricane Relief Fund Should Not Be Raided

By Gene Ward, 4/29/2010 9:40:18 AM



Rep. Gene Ward (R-Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley) spoke out today on the House of Representatives' decision to raid the Hawaii Hurricane Relief Fund without any plans to pay it back.

At the beginning of the session, the House Minority Caucus promised to provide the money to end school furloughs, and our budget showed how we could use Hurricane Relief funds to end furloughs as a loan.

(The House Minority budget proposal can be found at <http://www.gene-ward.com/budget/>)

On third reading of the bill, I offered an amendment to Senate Bill 2124 that would borrow from the HHRF to end furlough Fridays but require the state the pay the money back.

The amendment would fix furlough Fridays, keep the legislators' word to taxpayers, and ensure that the HHRF is around when the State needs it. The House did not pass the amendment.

There's a big difference between taking and borrowing. Today, the House stole monies that were promised to homeowners and taxpayers even though they had the means to pay them back.

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