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State Legislature Shouldn't Plan for Tax Hikes, Personnel Cuts - At Least Until Hawaii's Economic Forecast is Released

By Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai, 3/12/2009 10:56:41 AM

I disagree with the State Budget passed yesterday in the House Finance Committee, which increases taxes and cuts state employees.

Until the Council on Revenues gives us their latest economic forecast on Thursday, March 12, and the Governor has responded with her plan, putting people out of work and raising taxes is entirely premature.

The House Finance Committee acted hastily to blame Gov. Linda Lingle for lack of a balanced budget and should not be chiding her for warning them not to raise taxes.

In hard economic times, the last thing to do is raise taxes and put people out of work; these actions taken in the House budget could jeopardize our recovery and could make our biggest nightmare of a recession come true. The people of Hawaii need to be able to keep their money during these hard times.

The House now laterals the spending bill over to the Senate where it will end up in conference committee compromises before the legislative session ends on May 7, 2009.

"Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai—Kalama Valley."

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