

“Tonight during a conference committee meeting on House Bill 2200, Finance Committee Chair Marcus Oshiro told the public that there is no money because too many of the tax increases are being passed up on. So, the mantra remains: we need to raise taxes or the State will be broke. In truth, the State is in a serious fiscal crisis, and we do have difficult decisions to make. But, we do not have to decide between devastating tax increases or draconian budget cuts as many would have you believe. The State has choices, and the House Republican Caucus has put in weeks of effort to make those choices as transparent as possible through an interactive excel spreadsheet available online that will allow you to craft your own version of the budget. I strongly encourage you to take a good look at the choices available and the plan designed by the House Republican Caucus without tax increases. We do not need to raise taxes to balance the budget, and the public should not listen to any ultimatums without hearing the full logic behind them. No one can honestly say we need to raise taxes until they’ve looked at our budget and can refute it.”

The interactive excel budget spreadsheet can be found online at: www.gene-ward.com/budget.