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Hawaii Republican Lawmakers Question Ethics of Lawmakers Who Accepted Free Airline Trip to Manila

YouTube Video Link Provided

By Michele Van Hessen, 4/24/2008 12:33:31 PM

Last week, Hawaiian Airlines offered Hawaii legislators a free trip to Manila on the airlines first flight there.

Eight Democrats, including Senators Donna Mercado Kim, J. Kalani English, Ron Menor and Will Espero and Representatives Glenn Wakai, Rida Cabanilla, Joey Manahan and Tom Brower accepted the invitation for the Honolulu-Manila Inaugural flight, which included ground transportation and hotel accommodations.

None of the members of the Republican Party accepted the free excursion.

"As legislators we are going to vote on legislation that could give local airlines a tax break on aviation fuel sales," said Representative Colleen Meyer, who on a point of personal privilege stood up in the chamber to question the ethics of the legislators who went on the free trip to Manila.

Representative Gene Ward joins Representative Colleen Meyer and Senator Gordon Trimble to discuss the ethics of the free trip to the Philippines on this YouTube report:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jq-YQ8ILRhE>

In the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, April 18, 2008, political reporter Richard Borreca's details the issue here:

<http://starbulletin.com/2008/04/18/news/story06.html>

Michele Van Hessen is a spokesperson for the minority party in the Hawaii state House.

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