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Santa's Reindeer Must Abide Furlough Friday

Michele Van Hessen

Reader Submitted

Chief Clerk's office accountant Neal Shigemura and Denise Liu from the journal division office of the Hawaii State House of Representatives team up to decorate the Christmas tree every year in the Chamber foyer for members of the House of Representatives.

"The entire tree, which is 2 feet high, has hand-made budget-cut ornaments," described Representative Gene Ward, who stopped by to admire the imaginative display. Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer got bumped, Comet and Cupid got a pink slips, and Dancer, Prancer, Donner, Blitzen Vixen must abide Furlough Fridays. So Santa's sleigh this year will be lighter due to employee cut-backs.

While admiring this year's House of Representatives Christmas Tree, Rep. Ward said, "The budget crisis continues, people are still out of work, and our kids are not back to school. Yet, despite our ongoing troubles, I am continually blessed by the lighthearted spirit of the people of Hawaii."

"Not only have we preserved the Christmas season by continuing to give gifts and spend time with loved ones, but as you can see from the Christmas tree standing in our State Capitol, we have even learned to laugh at the very things that threaten to tear us apart," concluded Rep. Ward.
