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Small Business Caucus Package Designed to Stimulate Local Economy, Keep Workers Employed

By Hawaii Legislature's Small Business Caucus, 2/3/2009 3:39:15 PM



The Small Business Caucus today introduced its legislative package for the 2009 Legislative Session.

The bipartisan group, co-chaired by Rep. Angus McKelvey (D-10, Lahaina, Kaanapali, Kapalua) and co-founder Rep. Gene Ward (R-17, Hawaii Kai, Kalama Valley), aims to pass legislation that will support local Hawaii businesses during these challenging economic times.

Examples include:

- Self-Employed Business, Workers' Comp Reform
- New Hire Tax Credit
- Exempts Weddings from "Commercial Activities" Category for Beach Permits
- Renewable Energy Technology Manufacturing Tax Credit
- Sales Tax Holiday for School Supplies
- High-Tech Extension Service at UH
- Guaranteeing Solar/Photovoltaic Water Heaters Retrofit Tax Credit

Of the package, Rep. McKelvey said, "It's at times like these that we at the legislature need to closely evaluate our economic policy to make sure that the laws of our state support local businesses."

Rep. Ward added that, "Our local businesses have to be able to compete, and to do that, we have to get the state government off the back of the entrepreneur." Ward continued, "The theme of the 2009 Small Business Package is 'It's All About Jobs' because we have to keep our workers employed."

The Small Business Caucus is also focusing on high-tech, renewable energy technologies.

"We have investors in our state who are willing to back businesses that produce our solar panels, the blades on our wind turbines, and the components of our wave generators," said Sen. Slom.

Sen. Fukunaga followed, saying, "Imagine, the day when we not only create our own clean energy, but we also create the devices that produce that clean energy in our local job force."

An additional bill would make it easier for weddings to be performed at beaches across the state. "The wedding industry is quietly a very important small business in Hawaii," said Rep. McKelvey. "On Maui we have many beautiful locales for beach weddings and this bill simplifies the permitting process."

These bills will be considered over the next few weeks. The 2009 Legislative Session ends May 9th.

For more information, please contact Philip Draper in Rep. Ward's office at 586-6376.

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