

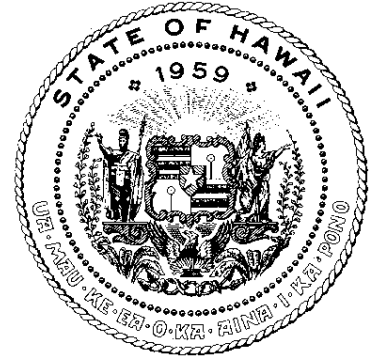


Hawaii State District 18 Representative

Mark Jun Hashem

Hahaione, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Hawaii Loa Ridge,
Aina Haina, Wailupe, Kahala

April 2011



See What We've Been Cutting

Number of Positions Paid for by General Funds by Departments over a 5-year period

Departments	FY07	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Agriculture	270.50	276.00	276.00	215.70	143.68
Accounting and General Services	660.00	687.50	688.50	650.00	516.50
Attorney General	303.61	347.97	362.43	348.43	333.90
Business, Economic Development and Tourism	118.50	123.50	124.50	95.50	69.50
Budget and Finance	144.00	144.00	145.00	142.00	129.25
Defense	147.80	151.80	153.80	144.80	128.30
Education	19,217.10	19,425.10	19,554.10	19,397.60	19,397.60
Governor's Office	37.00	37.00	37.00	31.00	27.00
Health	2,610.55	2,396.10	2,437.04	2,352.04	2,132.16
Human Resources Development	112.00	112.00	112.00	112.00	92.00
Human Services	1,252.34	1,307.03	1,341.42	1,303.63	1,249.59
Labor and Industrial Relations	257.64	266.14	265.64	227.72	182.10
Land and Natural Resources	445.60	470.25	491.25	445.75	421.25
Lieutenant Governor's Office	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00
Public Library	555.55	555.55	555.55	555.55	555.55
Public Safety	2,496.20	2,566.20	2,610.20	2,607.20	2,473.20
Tax	372.50	404.50	406.50	391.50	364.00
University of Hawaii System	6,062.59	6,321.09	6,473.59	6,474.09	6,474.09

General Fund Appropriations over a four-year period

Departments	FY08	FY09	FY10	FY11
Agriculture	\$18,341,469	\$16,482,274	\$13,391,748	\$9,267,118
Accounting and General Services	\$76,621,624	\$70,258,851	\$71,917,115	\$60,463,771
Attorney General	\$30,703,685	\$28,266,723	\$24,869,947	\$22,107,759
Business, Economic Development and Tourism	\$28,137,268	\$11,236,808	\$7,845,584	\$5,727,950
Budget and Finance	\$24,291,318	\$23,814,964	\$23,503,329	\$21,229,445
Defense	\$12,591,402	\$16,251,999	\$14,097,791	\$13,031,133
Education	\$1,401,562,416	\$1,394,564,070	\$1,396,097,613	\$1,253,433,452
Governor's Office	\$3,894,690	\$3,712,323	\$3,176,357	\$1,683,915
Health	\$441,711,070	\$454,551,367	\$408,217,068	\$382,751,143
Human Resources Development	\$16,847,468	\$16,539,593	\$15,551,300	\$19,967,660
Human Services	\$131,897,969	\$123,664,512	\$125,747,548	\$105,570,250
Labor and Industrial Relations	\$19,881,509	\$17,230,169	\$15,801,051	\$12,460,480
Land and Natural Resources	\$34,258,380	\$32,743,127	\$26,715,951	\$23,376,673
Lieutenant Governor's Office	\$1,261,092	\$1,229,610	\$1,072,895	\$785,464
Public Library	\$30,556,588	\$29,967,463	\$28,847,163	\$28,847,163
Public Safety	\$218,994,228	\$223,189,934	\$222,187,928	\$213,097,406
Tax	\$25,353,566	\$24,072,043	\$22,176,219	\$19,755,195
University of Hawaii System	\$432,574,345	\$463,875,602	\$422,591,205	\$360,687,276

The Truth About O

Budget cuts are an important part of addressing budget deficit

At the most recent Waiālae-Kahala Neighborhood board meeting, I was asked, "Why is it that we hear so much about raising taxes and spending but nothing about cutting spending?"

Having to look at the budget day in and day out, I often forget that everyone does not see what I see here at the Capitol. It is true that House Democrats are looking to remove certain tax exemptions on special interests groups. However, we are also proposing to cut already depleted departments significantly.

In the past two fiscal years, the state legislature closed a \$3.3 billion deficit, about \$1.7 billion came from budget cuts. Even in this year's proposed budget from the house, our two year plan in terms of spending is **lower than the proposed budget from Governor Abercrombie AND \$120 million below Governor Lingle's proposed budget.**

Some people often criticize all proposed budgets because it shows an increase in spending. This is true, but what is not said is that it is not due to irresponsible spending but

in large part to ending furloughs and putting our children back in the classroom. Still, we have been cutting first and entertain taxing alternatives later. Unfortunately, it has come to the point where we are now cutting into core services for our community.

We all must understand that rather than raising taxes on current GE tax payers, we are looking to expand the tax payer base to spread the burden to fund ESSENTIAL government programs. I do not think it's fair to raise your taxes while other people and special interests aren't paying taxes at all. I feel this is the most responsible way to close the budget short fall. Reaching a middle ground between

taxes and budget cuts is the fairest thing to do.

Other Proposals

The House minority proposal is to delay payment of tax returns to July 2011, sell Aloha Tower Marketplace and additional state-owned lands.

The Senate proposal is to borrow \$200 million from the City's rail project and replace it with \$300 million in bond funding. Another Senate proposal is to raise the GET to 5.5%.

The House Majority proposal is to abolish general excise tax exemptions and credits to special interest groups.



Representative Hashem and Representative Tsuji during a committee hearing on International Affairs.

Our Budget Situation

Where East Honolulu Gets Affected

The Department of Human Services received a \$20 million budget cut last fiscal year. Many residents in the Kalani-Iki/Kahala area have been filing complaints about a rat infestation only to find that almost the entire Vector Control workforce is no longer there due to budget cuts. The same situation is occurring with the 150 possible cases of Dengue Fever outbreak we are currently facing.

In Hawaii Kai, some residents have complained about possible Coqui Frogs, yet the Department of Agriculture was forced to reduce its workforce by over 60 people having its budget slashed by 50%. This leaves the DOA virtually paralyzed to respond to so many requests for help. The DOA is also responsible for monitoring fuel pumps, supermarket scales, taxi meters, etc. to insure accuracy. Now, most of these measurements will be checked on in a three-year cycle.

The Department of Health reduced its workforce by 315 due to a \$25 million plus cut resulting in a significant reduction in the amount of

health inspectors monitoring our local food establishments, hence the increase in food poisoning cases.

Perhaps the most morally troubling cut is yet to be told— last year the Department of Human Services cut over 50 people from their workforce. In an informational briefing by the Department of Human Services, they were forced to reduce their social work force by nearly 50%. Consequently, emergency Child Protective Services (CPS) calls often took over 48 hours for a social worker to respond due to backlog. Also, over 41 non-profit organizations addressing teen pregnancy, domestic violence, and early education will lose funding from the State without private donors to fill the funding gap.

What services are we willing to live without?

The list goes on regarding public service cuts. It is im-

portant for us to grasp the severity of our budget cut situation. Despite all of this, some say that we still must cut more. Frankly, the situation is not that simple. As we face a \$1.3 billion shortfall, just cutting won't help. We could eliminate whole departments such as:

- Agriculture
- Accounting and General Services
- Attorney General
- Business, Economic Development and Tourism
- Budget and Finance,
- Defense
- Governor's Office
- Human Resources and Development
- Labor and Industrial Relations
- Land and Natural Resources
- Lieutenant Governor's Office
- Public Library
- Taxation

We could eliminate all these departments COMBINED and still not balance the budget. Truth be told, as we begin to cut further into core services, we ironically become less effective. The balancing equation is not as black and white as some make it sound.

“I do not think it’s fair to raise your taxes while special interests groups aren’t paying taxes at all.”

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Representative Hashem checking out the Sheraton Hawaii Bowl trophy and gear as it was displayed on the floor of the House Chamber.

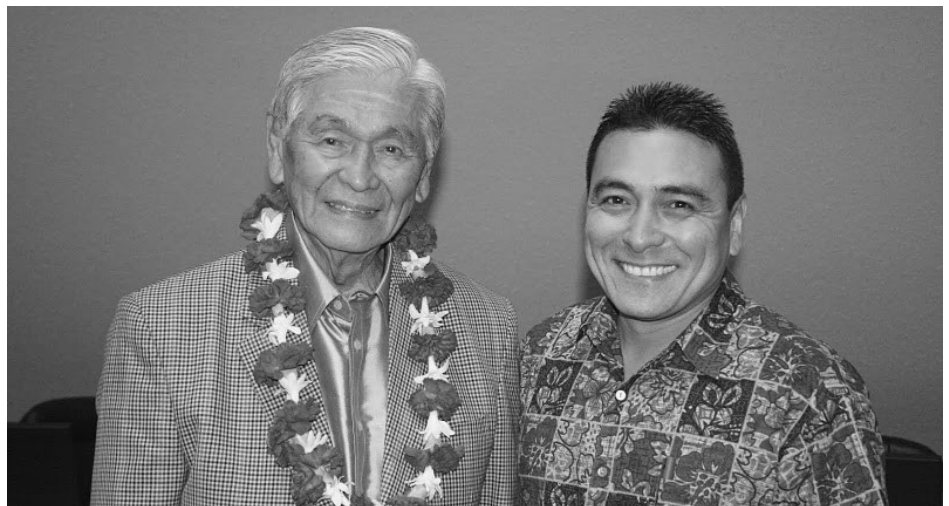


Rep. Hashem and staff with Rep. Tsuji and staff at the Farmer's Market held at the Capitol during AG Awareness Day. All produce was donated by local Farmers. All \$3800 raised from AG Awareness Day was donated to the Hawaii Food Bank and Food Basket.

Safety tips from the HFD as Easter nears.

As Easter approaches, remember the following safety tips:

- Scald burns are the most common injury among children ages four and younger. When boiling eggs for a coloring activity, be attentive to the cooking and children. Do not leave any cooking unattended.
- If candles are used, do not leave them unattended or near drapes or other ignitable materials, such as artificial grass, which is commonly used as filler for children's baskets. Ensure the candle holder is the proper size for the type of candle being used.
- Look at the contents of children's Easter baskets, especially if they contain small toys, and be aware of the manufacturer's warning for choking hazards for young children.



Representative Hashem with Governor Ariyoshi in the House chambers. The House recognized and honored the Blue Planet Foundation and its efforts.

Water Main Project Scheduled in Hawaii Kai

The Board of Water Supply has scheduled a water main replacement project in Kaiolohia Place and Way. The installation of new 8-inch water mains, fire hydrants, and appurtenances along the streets will reduce main breaks and improve fire protection and water service to the residents in the area.

Bids for this project opened this month. Construction will begin once a contractor is secured and all necessary paperwork is done.