



# Rep. George Fontaine

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House District II: Kīhei, Wailea, Makena

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## Greeting from Representative Fontaine

I have greatly appreciated your e-mails, faxes, and correspondence during the 2011 legislative session. Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you in the state House of Representatives this year, representing House District II.

One of the major challenges this year was a \$1.3 billion budget deficit. In this report you will see how the majority decided to balance the budget by raising taxes and making certain budget cuts.

In contrast, the minority proposed an alternative budget that did not require any taxes to be raised. You can access the minority proposed budget at: [www.hawaii.statebudgetonline.com](http://www.hawaii.statebudgetonline.com)

This budget is an interactive spreadsheet that can be downloaded.

The larger issue that looms on the horizon is the cost of labor in order to run government. Current labor costs are estimated to be as high as 70% of

the state budget. In addition, the State of Hawai'i is facing an unfunded liability of the Employee Retirement System that is between \$7 and \$9 billion. These issues need to be addressed in future legislative sessions.

Mahalo,

Rep. George Fontaine

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## Bills Passed — Co-sponsored by Rep. Fontaine

**Accreditation for Public Safety (HB 491 HD1 SD1 CDI)** — This bill requires the Department of Public Safety to pursue accreditation for the sheriff division from The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. This will help to ensure the public that the sheriff division is meeting the highest professional standards. Effective June 14, 2011.

**DOE Policy Regarding Bullying (HB 688 HD2 SD2 CDI)** — This bill requires the Board of Education to monitor compliance with Department of Education (DOE) rules or statutes regarding bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment and to establish reporting requirements for the DOE. With the advent of the Internet, this bill will update policies to address cyberbullying. Effective July 1, 2011.

**Relating to Small Claims Court (HB 1333 HD1 SD1 CDI)** — This will increase



(From left) Rep. Fontaine and Freshman representatives Riviere and Johanson are recognized on the last day of the 2011 Hawai'i State Legislature.

the maximum monetary claim that may be filed in small claims court from \$3,500 to \$5,000. This will allow more people to have access to small claims court by raising the monetary

claim limits. Small claims court is a more expedient process which allows litigants to argue directly before the

**BILLS continued on page 2**

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# Law Enforcement Memorial to be built

**New law gives green light to new memorial that will be designed at UH and funded privately**

HB1622 HDI was signed into law by the Governor as Act 014 on April 25th. This is a very simple bill that states that a "law enforcement memorial" shall be built with private funds in the Capitol District. The memorial will honor members of law enforcement in Hawai'i that have given the supreme sacrifice of their lives, in the line of duty."

Present at the signing were members of the county police departments from: Kaula'i, 'Oahu, Maui County, and Hawai'i Island. There were also members of the sheriff division from the Department of Public Safety.

The memorial will be designed by the



Representative Fontaine applauds Governor Abercrombie's signing of a bill that authorizes the creation of a Law Enforcement Memorial along with Senator Espero, Representative B. Oshiro.

architecture school at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, School of Architecture. The design of the memorial in Hawai'i will take into account designs from 49 other similar memorials from the other states.

The memorial will be privately funded through the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation.

For more information, go to: <http://www.hlemf.org/memorial-progress>

Watch the "Fontaine Factor" on Akaku2 Channel 53 Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m.

## Bills passed this past legislative session

### BILLS from page 1

judge without requiring the hiring of an attorney. Effective July 1, 2011. For more information about small claims court in Hawai'i, go to: [http://www.courts.state.hi.us/self-help/small\\_claims/small\\_claims.html](http://www.courts.state.hi.us/self-help/small_claims/small_claims.html)

**Relating to Voting (HB 1613 HDI SDI CDI)** — Requires an application to register to vote in person or by mail to include a space to request a permanent absentee ballot. Removes time limit on requesting an absentee or permanent absentee

ballot but not later than 4:30 p.m. on the seventh day prior to the election. This bill permits the Office of Elections to continue to use its existing voter registration application forms where possible until such time as new forms are developed and printed. Effective July 1, 2011.

**Relating to Historic Preservation (HB 1622 HDI)** — Requires the construction of a state law enforcement memorial in the Capitol District, provided that private funds are solicited and used for the construction of the memorial. Effective July 1, 2011.

"With federal funds, we can restore businesses, properties, and major harbors back to working condition."

— Rep. Fontaine

## Resolutions — Co-sponsored by Rep. Fontaine

**Filipino Veterans (HCR 86)** — This resolution urges Congress and the President of the United States to support the Filipino Veterans Family Reunification Act of 2009, or similar legislation, to expedite family

reunification for certain Filipino veterans of World War II.



**Tsunami Relief for Maui and Hawai'i Counties (HR 157)** — This resolution requests the application for, granting of, and fiscal support for emergency relief and emergency

prevention efforts for the county of Hawai'i and the county of Maui in the wake of the March 2011 tsunami.

**Supporting Tsunami Relief for Japan (HR175 HDI)** — This resolution recognizes the severity of the recent earthquake and tsunami crisis experienced by the people of Japan and supports the efforts of organizations within Hawai'i to assist the people of Japan.

# Projects Approved — Requested by Rep. Fontaine

## Two New Civil Defense Sirens for South Maui

During this session I was contacted by residents of South Maui to look into the coverage of civil defense siren coverage in our district. At present, there is a siren along Makena Road south of Po'olenalena Beach Park. I am pleased to report that I have received a response from Darryll Wong of the Hawai'i Civil Defense with the following update.

Darryl Wong stated that the modernization plan will add two new sirens in South Maui. Wong indicated that "the first siren will be located at the Makena Resort Wastewater Treatment Plant, and the second will be located in the vicinity of Big Beach Park."

The contract for the siren modernization project is

expected to be awarded by the end of July 2011. The construction orders are expected to be issued in July, with work projected to be completed within 90 days.

## Funding for South Maui Schools

I am pleased to announce that \$64,552 has been approved for FY 2012 to replace the steps and ramps to the portable classrooms at Lokelani Intermediate School.

Both Senator Baker and I thought that funding for six classroom buildings would be approved for Kihei Elementary School. Unfortunately, these funds were cut at the very end of the legislative session. I am also committed to securing funds for a new high school in South Maui along with other projects for our schools.

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— Rep. Fontaine

# Balancing the Hawai'i State Budget

The 2011 legislative session was especially challenging with a \$1.3 billion deficit. The Hawai'i State Constitution requires a balanced budget, therefore all lawmakers were given the task of balancing the budget.

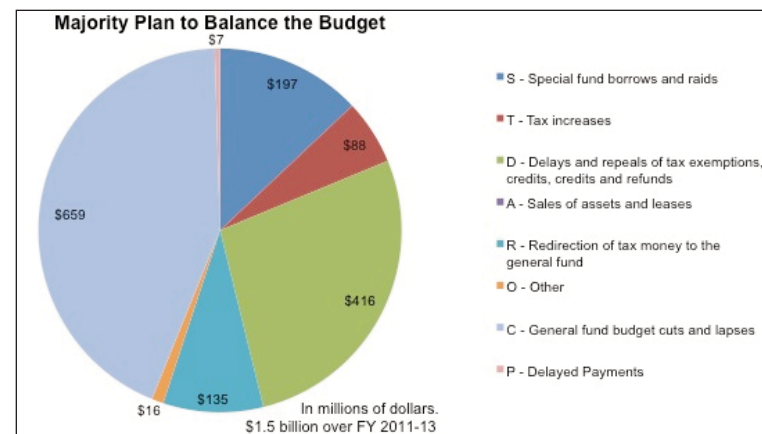
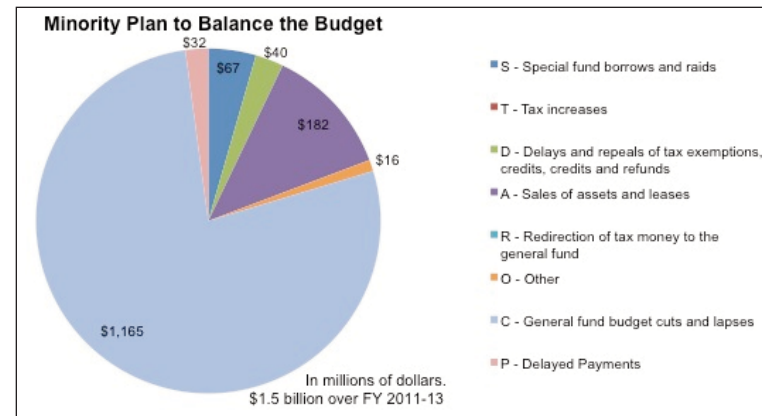
Balancing the state budget, in concept, is not a lot different than balancing a household budget. The choices are raise revenues, cut expenses, or do a bit of both. However, unlike a household budget, the State of Hawai'i can tax the citizens of Hawai'i, and taxes affect everyone.

This year, the Majority raised the state budget by \$200 million compared to FY 2010. Second, the Majority balanced the budget by raising taxes approximately \$600 million and cutting the budget by about another \$600 million.

In contrast, the House Minority presented an alternative budget that did not raise any taxes but also balanced the budget for FY 2011. You can access the Minority proposed budget at: [www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com](http://www.HawaiiStateBudgetOnline.com)

## How to Slice the Budget Pie

The two pie charts that are shown to the right demonstrate the contrast between the state budget that was passed and the budget that was proposed. I feel that raising taxes on the working families of Hawai'i is the wrong thing to do. It is a double hit when the



cost of living is so high in our state. Unfortunately, the Majority party feels that raising taxes is the right thing to do, because they proposed it, voted for it and passed it.

As of March 2011, the state budget deficit was \$1.3 billion for FY 2011-13. The two pie charts shown contrast the Majority and Minority plans on how to

make up this budget deficit. What the public needs to be aware of is that there is more than one way to balance a budget. It was not necessary to raise taxes over \$600 million to balance the budget.

For more information about taxes in Hawai'i and how the coming increases will affect you go to: <http://www.TFHawaii.org/>



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# Fontaine in the Community

Boys and Girls Club of Maui — Rep. Fontaine congratulates Zachary Jarman, 2010 Gene Freedman Memorial Youth of the Year & Leah Kinores, 2011 Maui Youth of the Year.



Rep. Fontaine visited the 2nd Hawai'i STEM Conference held at the Wailea Marriott on April 1st and 2nd.



Rep. Fontaine lends a hand to help landscape Lokelani Intermediate School.

FACE Maui honored Rep. Fontaine with an award for "Going to Bat" for Maui homeowners.



Cub Scouts color guard at Kihei Little League Opening Day.

Living Treasures — Rep. Fontaine (back, center) helped honor paniolo (from left) Francis Napua Po'ouahi, Charles "Chunga" A. Kahaleauki Jr., and Carl "Soot" H. Bredhoff Jr., Merton G. Kekiwi Sr. and Charles A. Kahaleauki Sr. (not pictured) as Maui's Paniolo Living Treasures.

