Hawaii Republican Assembly

2014

Hawaii Legislative Scorecard

Ratings of all seventy-six state senators & representatives
Aloha,

Yes, elections have consequences. The 2014 session of the Hawaii State Legislature did enormous damage to our economy, to the financial security of families and employers, as well as to the social fabric of our islands. In addition, the 2014 session provided valuable insight into the political ideologies and economic philosophies of all 76 members of the State House and State Senate.

In developing the Hawaii Republican Assembly’s (HIRA) first scorecard, in partnership with HIRA members and supporters, we identified eleven key bills that had the most impact on our society. In order to qualify, the bill had to make it to the floor of the State House and/or State Senate as legislation requiring an up or down vote by each member of the respective body. These bills were used to determine how conservative or how liberal our elected officials proved to be in 2014.

The range of issues presented to these politicians covered a very wide spectrum; HIRA combined the results of the 2013 special session with the 2014 regular session at the State Capitol.

Without question, liberal and conservative principles were on display for all to see. However, what these politicians do in their official capacity is generally at odds with the image they convey to the public. HIRA was on hand to capture the good, the bad and the ugly of the following bills:

**The State Budget**
- Obamacare Exchange
- Bailout
**Minimum Wage Hike**
**Same-Sex Marriage**
**Same-Day Voter Registration**
**Religious Freedom Restoration**
**Internet Sales Tax**

**Obamacare Exchange Bailout**
- Mandatory Kindergarten
- TAT Bailout for Counties
- Bailout of State Hospitals
- Public Housing Reform

In tallying up the votes on these bills, each of the 76 legislators -- 25 in the State Senate, 51 in the State House -- were given a conservative rating by HIRA based on their voting record; a numeric percentage reflecting each politician’s level of conservatism (or lack thereof).

To put it simply, a rating of 100% would be awarded to a politician based on a solid, conservative voting record that ought to be standard for any and all Republican elected officials. A rating of 0% would be earned by a politician that would make the most ardent liberal Democrat socialist proud. **A conservative has a HIRA rating of 80% or greater.**

Presented here is HIRA’s Legislative Scorecard which is intended to separate rhetoric from reality. Just about every politician talks about being fiscally conservative, but most are not. Just about all of them say they want to improve jobs and the economy, but most support legislation which actually does the opposite. You’ll also be hard-pressed to find a politician that isn’t for the family (the ohana), and the children (the keiki), and the elderly (the kupuna) and doing what is right (being pono). However, the vast majority of legislators do far less to benefit regular folks and do far more for special interest groups which provide campaigns with cash, volunteers and more.

This is where the rubber meets the road. The reality is right here for all to see. In some cases, you’ll be surprised. In other cases, you won’t. HIRA is proud to tell the truth and will continue to track what policymakers are actually doing.

Mahalo,

TITO MONTES
President, Hawai‘i Republican Assembly
HIRA RATING
HOW LIBERAL -OR- CONSERVATIVE IS YOUR LEGISLATOR?

100% = CONSERVATIVE LIKE EVERY REPUBLICAN OUGHT TO BE
0% = RAGING LIBERAL THAT WOULD MAKE DEMOCRATS PROUD
Following the 2012 general election, majority Democrats in the State House were equally divided between two faction leaders which gave the minority House Republican Caucus substantial leverage in setting the direction of the House. Rather than using their seven crucial votes to pursue a less liberal direction, the House minority made a deal to throw its support to extreme liberal Democrat Joe Souki in his bid to unseat long serving House Speaker Calvin Say in a trade for several powerless ‘vice chair’ positions for Republicans on three committees.

Not only do elections have consequences, but coalitions have consequences. Public policies approved by the State Legislature after this deal was struck only confirmed the worst case scenario. The next two years saw massive state budgets adopted with the support of Republicans, plus the enactment of gay marriage and more harmful policies which conservatives universally oppose. Since Souki’s faction was already known to be extremely liberal, even more liberal than Say’s bloc, the tragic results of such a partnership should not have been all that surprising.

Based on votes cast in 2014, Republican leader Aaron Ling Johanson scored a 36% HIRA rating, meaning he voted conservatively only 4 times out of the 11 key bills on HIRA’s scorecard. Deposed House Speaker Calvin Say scored only slightly lower with a 27% HIRA rating. New House Speaker Joe Souki proved to be a hardcore liberal with a 9% HIRA rating. This formal embrace of liberalism by Republican leadership in exchange for what Republican Rep. Bob McDermott condemned as “crumbs from Speaker Souki’s table” virtually ensured the adoption of more liberal legislation by our state government for years and years to come.

Making matters worse for Republican voters, who were led to believe that elected officials from their own party had been fighting on their behalf, is that a number of House Democrats are rated more conservative than current GOP leader Johanson -- the very person who is supposed to be leading the Republican cause yet frequently votes with Democrats instead.

The Republican member of the State House that scored the highest conservative rating in 2014 was Bob McDermott (64% HIRA rating), who actually led an unsuccessful attempt to depose Johanson as Republican minority leader during the October 2013 special session in order to derail the deal that put Souki in charge of the House. In addition, McDermott led an unsuccessful attempt -- stopped by Johanson -- to have the most liberal member of the Republican caucus, Rep. Cynthia Thielen (27% HIRA rating), removed from the House Judiciary Committee. Such a move might have impacted the outcome of the gay marriage special session: “Thielen’s vote for gay marriage in the judiciary committee guaranteed that the bill would make it to the floor for a vote,” wrote Richard Borecca of the Honolulu Star-Advertiser on June 6, 2014.

HIRA contends that if the current leadership and direction of the House Republican Caucus remains unchanged, future legislative sessions will prove to be just as disastrous for Republicans and Hawaii.

**A VERY BAD DEAL**

The leadership deal made by House Republicans (saddled with their leader’s already left-leaning 36% conservative rating) to overthrow Say and partner instead with Souki downgraded the political power equation at the State Capitol by replacing a liberal speaker with a 27% HIRA rating with an even more liberal speaker with an even worse 9% HIRA rating.
For over a decade, the number of elected Republicans has shrunk with each election cycle. Such ‘shrinkage’ has been most evident in the State House where only seven Republicans now stand where 22 Republicans stood only 12 years earlier in 2002. Exacerbated by a neutral party platform, the absence of differentiation between Republicans and Democrats combined with a near total absence of communication has led to the precipitous decline of GOP representation.

The average HIRA rating for the State House Republicans is a left-of-center 45% -- far from HIRA’s 80% standard for serious conservative elected officials. The seven member GOP caucus is comprised of a mix of liberals, self-described ‘moderates’, and potential conservatives, all of whom represent districts located exclusively on Oahu. HIRA is very disappointed by the average voting records of our Republican Caucus. HIRA’s disagreement with the votes of any member of the legislature and what makes the vote conservative or liberal will be explained bill by bill throughout this scorecard.

In order to understand why legislators voted the way they did, HIRA investigated the source of campaign funding for each elected official. It has been found that certain House Republicans received contributions from big government special interest groups typically associated with Democrat political campaigns, such as the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) and the United Public Workers (UPW) among many others. This finding helped to clarify certain voting patterns. A forthcoming HIRA report will detail these findings.

Some argue in defense that the ‘Republican’ or ‘R’ label is valuable for getting elected in certain geographic districts even if the incumbent Republican is not really a Republican at all. Windward Oahu and East Honolulu are the most frequently cited examples of areas in recent decades where Democrats might opt to run and hold office as Republicans. In fact, the lowest rated Republican in the State House is Windward Oahu’s Cynthia Thielen (27% HIRA rating) who scored just as liberal or even more liberal in 2014 than more than a dozen left-wing House Democrats, including former Democrat Speaker Calvin Say. This is sure to confuse voters already baffled by the lack of consistent, visible differences between Democrats and Republicans as evidenced by their voting records on major issues.
Only one Republican currently serves in the State Senate. East Honolulu’s Sam Slom is the highest rated elected official in either house of the State Legislature, scoring a 90% HIRA rating. With a high rating and strong electability, it is hoped that more Republican incumbents and candidates alike would emulate Slom's commitment to conservative principles in both word and deed.

The one strike against Slom’s conservative voting record in 2014 was his vote in favor of House Bill 1671 which was a multi-million dollar financial bailout of the four county governments which have been mismanaged by Democrats for far too long. The bulk of the funds to be shared with the counties from the Transient Accommodations Tax -- funds authorized and increased by this bill -- will not help to improve the quality of county services or even get the counties to start delivering the minimal services already deserved by each island’s taxpayers. The funds are a political bailout to pay for excessive pay raises and overly generous retirement benefits for unionized government employees, both of which HIRA vigorously opposes.
OVERALL 2014 HIRA RATING AVERAGES

OVERALL 2014 AVERAGE HIRA SCORES

State House 21%
State Senate 15%

2014 PARTISAN BREAKDOWN

Average based on HIRA ratings of all members of the minority and majority caucuses of each body.

STATE HOUSE
Democrats (44) 18%
Republicans (7) 45%

STATE SENATE
Democrats (24) 12%
Republican (1) 90%

ENOUGH OF A DIFFERENCE TO MATTER?

With House Republicans averaging a HIRA score of 45% and House Democrats averaging 18%, there’s arguably not enough of a noticeable difference to substantiate the call for the people of Hawaii to abandon 60 years of support for Democrats and urge the public to adopt a more evenly balanced two-party system in Hawaii.

The minute difference between the direction offered by House Republicans and House Democrats is almost unnoticeable and is sure to confuse voters during elections when they are being pleaded with by the minority Republican Party about the importance of electing more Republicans. The existence of relatively less liberal Democrats like West Oahu’s Sharon Har and Central Oahu’s Marcus Oshiro (both of whom earned HIRA scores of 45% with their votes in 2014) only serve to blur the distinction between R’s and D’s. Indeed, these Democrats are frequently counted on by Hawaii conservatives on many critical issues; sometimes more frequently reliably than Republicans.

Many highly rated conservative politicians are successfully elected and re-elected across the United States. For perspective, 24 U.S. senators and 122 U.S. congressmen currently score 80% or higher on the American Conservative Union’s (ACU) rating system. Additionally, 22 members of the U.S. Senate and 69 members of the U.S. House are scored 80% or higher by the conservative Club for Growth, while 13 senators and 41 congressmen score 80% or higher on the Heritage Action’s ratings system. The secret to scoring highly is to actually vote on legislation like a Republican actually should -- not just to pretend to be a Republican while voting like a Democrat. As the old adage warns us, it’s not what they say but what they really do that should concern us. The reality must match the rhetoric.
PERPETUATING HIGH TAXES + WASTEFUL SPENDING

HB 1700. Budget Bill.

This bill authorized $12.1 billion in appropriations for the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year which represented major increases in spending, increases in state debt, and increased taxes -- ignoring opportunities to eliminate wasteful programs, consolidate duplicated services, and reduce Hawaii’s staggering tax burden. HIRA opposes this type of fiscal irresponsibility. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 49-0. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 24-1.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE BUDGET

SEN. SLOM (R)

REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. AWANA (D)  REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. BROWER (D)  REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. CACHOLA (D)  REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. CHOI (D)  REP. CREAGAN (D)  REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. EVANS (D)  REP. FALE (R)  REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. HANOHANO (D)  REP. HAR (D)  REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  REP. ING (D)  REP. JOHANSON (R)  REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  REP. LEE (D)  REP. LOWEN (D)  REP. LUKE (D)

FOR BLOATED STATE BUDGET

REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. AWANA (D)  REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. BROWER (D)  REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. CACHOLA (D)  REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. CHOI (D)  REP. CREAGAN (D)  REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. EVANS (D)  REP. FALE (R)  REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. HANOHANO (D)  REP. HAR (D)  REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  REP. ING (D)  REP. JOHANSON (R)  REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  REP. LEE (D)  REP. LOWEN (D)  REP. LUKE (D)

SEN. BAKER (D)  SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)  SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)  SEN. ENGLISH (D)  SEN. ESPERO (D)  SEN. GABBARD (D)  SEN. GALUTERIA (D)  SEN. GREEN (D)  SEN. HEE (D)  SEN. IGE (D)  SEN. IHARA (D)  SEN. KAHELE (D)  SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)  SEN. KIDANI (D)  SEN. KIM (D)  SEN. KOUCHI (D)  SEN. NISHIHARA (D)  SEN. RUDERMAN (D)  SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)  SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)  SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)  SEN. THIELEN (D)  SEN. TOKUDA (D)  SEN. WAKAI (D)

REP. ITO (D) and REP. MIZUNO (D) were absent.
This bill mandates an increase in the minimum wage rate to $7.75 per hour beginning on 1/1/15, $8.50 per hour beginning on 1/1/16, $9.25 per hour beginning on 1/1/17, and $10.10 per hour beginning on 1/1/18. HIRA opposes legislation which artificially inflates wages for workers. This type of policy prices people out of jobs as businesses are less likely to hire because employers cannot afford their salaries. This increases the cost of doing business, increases consumer prices, and creates a surplus of labor (i.e. high unemployment). The cost of labor should be decided by the free market and not by irresponsible politicians trying to play Robin Hood. There is no virtue in compulsory government charity. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 24-1. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 24-1.
This bill legalized marriage between individuals of the same sex in Hawaii. HIRA supports traditional marriage and opposes this bill. This legislation opened the door for a slew of additional harmful policies. The State House passed the bill on November 8, 2013 by a vote of 30-19. The State Senate passed the bill on November 12, 2013 by a vote of 19-4.

** The same-sex marriage bill was originally going to be considered during the 2014 session. However, in anticipation that the large amount of public testimony and legislative debate needed for consideration of the bill would distract from all the other issues expected to be taken up by the 2014 legislature during the regular session, a special session of the legislature was called in late 2013 instead.

### HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

#### AGAINST SB 1

|----------------|----------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|

** Rep. Cabanilla (D), Rep. Choy (D) and Sen. Dela Cruz (D) were absent
HB 2590. Same Day Voter Registration.

This bill will allow voters to register at early voting sites beginning in 2016 or at their assigned polling places on Election Day starting in 2018. HIRA opposes such legislation as it increases the likelihood of voter fraud, the potential for error, and increases the financial and operational burden on county election officials. The last two elections have proven that state elections officials cannot properly administer balloting under current registration timelines. Clearly, this legislation will only make matters worse. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 40-10. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 24-1.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE SCAM

REP. AWANA (D)
REP. FALE (R)
REP. FUKUMOTO (R)
REP. HANOHANO (D)
REP. HAR (D)
REP. JORDAN (D)
REP. KAWAKAMI (D)
REP. MCDERMOTT (R)
REP. OSHIRO (D)
REP. TOKIOKA (D)

SEN. SLOM (R)

FOR THE SCAM

REP. AQUINO (D)
REP. BELATTI (D)
REP. BROWER (D)
REP. CABANILLA (D)
REP. CACHOLA (D)
REP. CARROLL (D)
REP. CHOY (D)
REP. CREAGAN (D)
REP. CULLEN (D)
REP. EVANS (D)
REP. HASHEM (D)
REP. ICHIYAMA (D)
REP. ING (D)
REP. JOHANSON (R)
REP. KOBAYASHI (D)
REP. LEE (D)
REP. LOWEN (D)
REP. LUKE (D)
REP. MATSUMOTO (R)
REP. MCKELVEY (D)
REP. MIZUNO (D)
REP. MORIKAWA (D)
REP. NAKASHIMA (D)
REP. NISHIMOTO (D)
REP. OHNO (D)
REP. ONISHI (D)
REP. RHOADS (D)
REP. SAIKI (D)
REP. SAY (D)
REP. SOUKI (D)
REP. TAKAI (D)
REP. TAKAYAMA (D)
REP. TAKUMI (D)
REP. THIELEN (R)
REP. TSUJI (D)
REP. WARD (R)
REP. WOODSON (D)
REP. WOOLEY (D)
REP. YAMANE (D)
REP. YAMASHITA (D)

SEN. BAKER (D)
SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)
SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)
SEN. ENGLISH (D)
SEN. ESPERO (D)
SEN. GABBAR (D)
SEN. GALUTERIA (D)
SEN. GREEN (D)
SEN. HEE (D)
SEN. IGE (D)
SEN. IHARA (D)
SEN. KAHELE (D)
SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)
SEN. KIDANI (D)
SEN. KIM (D)
SEN. KOUCHI (D)
SEN. NISHIHARA (D)
SEN. RUDERMAN (D)
SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)
SEN. SOLOMON (D)
SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)
SEN. THIELEN (D)
SEN. TOKUDA (D)
SEN. WAKAI (D)

REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism
PROTECTING THE FREEDOM OF RELIGION


This bill would have restricted government actions against people of faith in the wake of the legalization of same-sex marriage in Hawaii by applying the "compelling interest" test to withstand legal challenges against religious liberties. HIRA supports legislation which protects the free exercise of religion while preventing government from forcing dissenting religious believers or organizations to recognize or facilitate same-sex marriage. However, after the House’s judiciary committee chair refused to schedule a hearing for the bill, a vote was taken by the full house which failed to pull the bill from committee; effectively killing the bill on February 14, 2014 by a vote of 18-28. The bill, therefore, was not voted on by the State Senate.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

FOR FREEDOM
REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. CHOY (D)  REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. FALE (R)  REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. HANOHANO (D)  REP. HAR (D)  REP. ITO (D)  REP. JOHANSON (R)  REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. MATSUMOTO (R)  REP. MCDERMOTT (R)  REP. OSHIRO (D)  REP. SAY (D)  REP. TOKIOKA (D)  REP. TSUJI (D)  REP. WARD (R)  REP. YAMANE (D)

AGAINST FREEDOM OF RELIGION
REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. BROWER (D)  REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. CREGAN (D)  REP. EVANS (D)  REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  REP. ING (D)  REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  REP. LEE (D)  REP. LOWEN (D)  REP. LUKE (D)  REP. MCKELVEY (D)  REP. MIZUNO (D)  REP. MORIKAWA (D)  REP. NAKASHIMA (D)  REP. NISHIMOTO (D)  REP. OHNO (D)  REP. ONISHI (D)  REP. RHOADS (D)  REP. SAIKI (D)  REP. SOUKI (D)  REP. TAKAI (D)  REP. TAKAYAMA (D)  REP. THIELEN (R)  REP. WOODSON (D)  REP. WOOLEY (D)  REP. YAMASHITA (D)

REP. AWANA (D), REP. CACHOLA (D), REP. TAKUMI (D) and REP. CARROLL (D) were absent.
This bill applies Hawaii’s regressive General Excise Tax (a pyramiding sales tax on all transactions) to all Internet Purchases. If enacted, it would increase the cost of living in Hawaii while also increasing the cost of doing business in Hawaii for local companies selling products and services via the internet through mandating that Hawaii joins the multi-state tax cartel known as the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement (SSUTA). HIRA opposes tax increases, period. The State House passed the bill on March 4, 2014 by a vote of 42 to 8. The State Senate passed the bill on April 8, 2014 by a vote of 24-1. But the bill died because conferees could not agree on reconciling the two versions of the bill.

**AGAINST THE TAX**

- REP. FALE (R)
- REP. FUKUMOTO (R)
- REP. JOHANSON (R)
- REP. MATSUMOTO (R)
- REP. MCDERMOTT (R)
- REP. MCKELVEY (D)
- REP. THIELEN (R)
- REP. WARD (R)
- SEN. SLOM (R)

**FOR THE TAX**

- REP. AQUINO (D)
- REP. AWANA (D)
- REP. BELATTI (D)
- REP. BROWER (D)
- REP. CABANILLA (D)
- REP. CACHOLA (D)
- REP. CARROLL (D)
- REP. CHOI (D)
- REP. CREAGAN (D)
- REP. CULLEN (D)
- REP. EVANS (D)
- REP. HANOHANO (D)
- REP. HAR (D)
- REP. HASHEM (D)
- REP. ICHIYAMA (D)
- REP. ING (D)
- REP. ITO (D)
- REP. JORDAN (D)
- REP. KAWAKAMI (D)
- REP. KOBAYASHI (D)
- REP. LEE (D)
- REP. LOWEN (D)
- REP. LUKE (D)
- REP. MIZUNO (D)
- REP. MORIKAWA (D)
- REP. NAKASHIMA (D)
- REP. NISHIMOTO (D)
- REP. OHNO (D)
- REP. ONISHI (D)
- REP. OSIRO (D)
- REP. RHOADS (D)
- REP. SAIIKI (D)
- REP. SAY (D)
- REP. SOUKI (D)
- REP. TAKAI (D)
- REP. TAKAYAMA (D)
- REP. TAKUMI (D)
- REP. TOKIOKA (D)
- REP. TSUJI (D)
- REP. WOODSON (D)
- REP. YAMANE (D)
- REP. YAMASHITA (D)
- SEN. BAKER (D)
- SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)
- SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)
- SEN. ENGLISH (D)
- SEN. ESPEROS (D)
- SEN. GABBARD (D)
- SEN. GALUTERIA (D)
- SEN. GREEN (D)
- SEN. HEE (D)
- SEN. IGE (D)
- SEN. IHARA (D)
- SEN. KAHELE (D)
- SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)
- SEN. KIDANI (D)
- SEN. KIM (D)
- SEN. KOUCHI (D)
- SEN. NIHAR (D)
- SEN. RUDEMAN (D)
- SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)
- SEN. SOLOMON (D)
- SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)
- SEN. THIELEN (D)
- SEN. TOWU (D)
- SEN. WAKAI (D)
HAWAII OBAMACARE CONNECTOR BAILOUT


This bill injects a $1.5 million emergency appropriation into a failing Hawaii-based Obamacare ‘exchange’ which was supposed to have been self-sustaining when the Federal startup funds ran out. The legislation also permits the “Hawaii Health Connector” to generate non-insurer based revenue through user fees. HIRA opposes wasting tax dollars to prop up the worst performing government healthcare exchange since the implementation of the worst federal legislation in history -- the Affordable Care Act, a.k.a. Obamacare -- especially while other states opted to either revamp or close their glitch-plagued public health insurance exchanges in favor of the national enrollment system. HIRA also opposes any government takeover of healthcare at any level of government. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 37-13. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 23-2.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE WASTE

REP. AWANA (D)  REP. CHOY (D)  REP. FALE (R)  
REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. HANOHANO (D)  
REP. HAR (D)  REP. JORDAN (D)  
REP. MCDERMOTT (R)  REP. OSHIRO (D)  
REP. SAY (D)  REP. THIELEN (R)  
REP. TOKIOKA (D)  REP. WARD (R)  

SEN. GABBARD (D)  
SEN. SLOM (R)

FOR THE WASTE

REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. BROWER (D)  
REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. CACHOLA (D)  
REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. CREAGAN (D)  
REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. EVANS (D)  
REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  
REP. ING (D)  REP. JOHANSON (R)  
REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  
REP. LEE (D)  REP. LOWEN (D)  
REP. LUKE (D)  REP. MATSUMOTO (R)  
REP. MCKELVEY (D)  REP. MIZUNO (D)  
REP. MORIKAWA (D)  REP. NAKASHIMA (D)  
REP. NISHIMOTO (D)  REP. OHNO (D)  
REP. ONISHI (D)  REP. RHOADS (D)  
REP. SAIKI (D)  REP. SOUKI (D)  
REP. TAKAI (D)  REP. TAKAYAMA (D)  
REP. TAKUMI (D)  REP. TSUJI (D)  
REP. WOODSON (D)  REP. YAMANE (D)  
REP. YAMASHITA (D)

SEN. BAKER (D)  
SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)  
SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)  
SEN. ENGLISH (D)  
SEN. ESPERO (D)  
SEN. GALUTERIA (D)  
SEN. GREEN (D)

SEN. HEE (D)  
SEN. IGE (D)  
SEN. IHARA (D)  
SEN. KAEHELE (D)  
SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)  
SEN. KIDANI (D)  
SEN. KIM (D)  
SEN. KOUCHI (D)  
SEN. NISHIHARA (D)  
SEN. RUDERMAN (D)  
SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)  
SEN. SOLOMON (D)  
SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)  
SEN. THIELEN (D)  
SEN. TOKUDA (D)  
SEN. WAKAI (D)

REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism
EXPANDING THE NANNY STATE EVEN FURTHER

SB 2768. Making Kindergarten Mandatory.

This bill enlarges the public school system by making kindergarten mandatory for children who will be at least five years of age on July 31 of the school year. HIRA opposes saddling taxpayers and parents with the cost of compulsory enrollment of children at kindergarten and pre-kindergarten schools when the evidence shows parental involvement provides a better foundation for future achievement than forcing children to begin their formal classroom education earlier. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 50-0. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 23-1.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE MANDATE

SEN. SLOM (R)

REP. AQUINO (D)
REP. AWANA (D)
REP. BELATTI (D)
REP. BROWER (D)
REP. CABANILLA (D)
REP. CACHOLA (D)
REP. CARROLL (D)
REP. CHOI (D)
REP. CREAGAN (D)
REP. CULLEN (D)
REP. EVANS (D)
REP. FALE (R)
REP. HANOHANO (D)
REP. HAR (D)
REP. HASHEM (D)
REP. ICHIYAMA (D)
REP. ING (D)
REP. JOHANSON (R)
REP. JORDAN (D)
REP. KAWAKAMI (D)
REP. KOBAYASHI (D)
REP. LEE (D)
REP. LOWEN (D)
REP. LUKE (D)

FOR THE MANDATE

REP. MATSUMOTO (R)
REP. MCDERMOTT (R)
REP. MCKELVEY (D)
REP. MIZUNO (D)
REP. MORIKAWA (D)
REP. NAKISHIMA (D)
REP. NISHIMOTO (D)
REP. OHNO (D)
REP. ONISHI (D)
REP. OSHIRO (D)
REP. RHOADS (D)
REP. SAIKI (D)
REP. SAY (D)
REP. SOUKI (D)
REP. TAKAI (D)
REP. TAKAYAMA (D)
REP. TAKUMI (D)
REP. THIELEN (R)
REP. TOKIOKA (D)
REP. TSUJI (D)
REP. WARD (R)
REP. WOODSON (D)
REP. WOOLEY (D)
REP. YAMANE (D)
REP. YAMASHITA (D)

SEN. BAKER (D)
SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)
SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)
SEN. ENGLISH (D)
SEN. ESPERO (D)
SEN. GABBAR (D)
SEN. GALUTERIA (D)
SEN. GREEN (D)
SEN. HEE (D)
SEN. IGE (D)
SEN. IHARA (D)
SEN. KAHELE (D)
SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)
SEN. KIDANI (D)
SEN. KIM (D)
SEN. KOUCI (D)
SEN. NISHIHARA (D)
SEN. RUDERMAN (D)
SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)
SEN. SOLOMON (D)
SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)
SEN. THIELEN (D)
SEN. TOKUDA (D)
SEN. WAKAI (D)

REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism
THROWING MONEY AT COUNTY OVERSpending

HB 1671. Transient Accommodations Tax Sharing.

This bill increases the tax money distributed annually from the state’s transient accommodations (hotel room) tax collections to Hawaii’s four county governments from the current cap of $93 million to $103 million. By making Hawaii a more expensive place to visit, this increased subsidy is intended to help the counties address multi-million-dollar budgetary shortfalls due to overly generous collective bargaining pay hikes, rising debt service, plus exploding pension and health benefits for county government employees -- money which is not used to improve roads, parks, public safety, and other basic county services. HIRA opposes this bill because it takes the pressure off county politicians to rein in exorbitant spending through privatization, restructuring, reprioritization, and elimination of duplicate services between county, state and federal governments. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 50-0. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 25-0.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE BAILOUT

NONE

FOR THE COSTLY BAILOUT

REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. MCVELVEY (D)  SEN. BAKER (D)
REP. AWANA (D)  REP. MIZUNO (D)  SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)
REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. MORIKAWA (D)  SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)
REP. BROWSER (D)  REP. NAKASHIMA (D)  SEN. ENGLISH (D)
REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. NISHIMOTO (D)  SEN. ESPERO (D)
REP. CACHOLA (D)  REP. OHNO (D)  SEN. GABBARD (D)
REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. ONISHI (D)  SEN. GALUTERIA (D)
REP. CHOY (D)  REP. OSHIRO (D)  SEN. GREEN (D)
REP. CREAGAN (D)  REP. ROADS (D)  SEN. HEE (D)
REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. SAIKI (D)  SEN. IGE (D)
REP. EVANS (D)  REP. SAY (D)  SEN. IHARA (D)
REP. FALE (R)  REP. SOUKI (D)  SEN. KAHELE (D)
REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. TAKAI (D)  SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)
REP. HANOHANO (D)  REP. TAKAYAMA (D)  SEN. KIDANI (D)
REP. HAR (D)  REP. TAKUMI (D)  SEN. KIM (D)
REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. THIELEN (R)  SEN. KOUCHI (D)
REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  REP. TOKIOMA (D)  SEN. NISHIHARA (D)
REP. ING (D)  REP. TSUJI (D)  SEN. RUDERMAN (D)
REP. JOHANSON (R)  REP. WARD (R)  SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)
REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. WOODSON (D)  SEN. SLOM (R)
REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. WOOLEY (D)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)
REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  REP. YAMANE (D)  SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)
REP. LEE (D)  REP. YAMASHITA (D)  SEN. THIELEN (D)
REP. LOWEN (D)  REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism
REP. LUKE (D)  SEN. TOKUDA (D)
SEN. WAKAI (D)
THROWING GOOD DOLLARS AT INFERIOR MEDICAL CARE

SB 2866. Government Hospitals.

This bill makes an emergency appropriation of $15,000,000 to support the functions of the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, which operates the state’s public hospitals at a loss while the legislature routinely kills bills which would privatize these hospitals and lessen dependence on tax dollars. HIRA opposes this bill’s business-as-usual approach of requiring an annual state subsidy and an annual emergency appropriation to run its dozen facilities statewide. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 50-0. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 24-1.

HOW OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS VOTED

AGAINST THE WASTE

SEN. SLOM (R)

FOR THE WASTE

REP. AWANA (D)  REP. MCDERMOTT (R)
REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. MCKELVEY (D)
REP. BELATTI (D)  REP. MIZUNO (D)
REP. BROWER (D)  REP. MORIKAWA (D)
REP. CABANILLA (D)  REP. NAKASHIMA (D)
REP. CACHOLA (D)  REP. NISHIMOTO (D)
REP. CARROLL (D)  REP. OHNO (D)
REP. CHoy (D)  REP. ONISHI (D)
REP. CREAGAN (D)  REP. OSHIRO (D)
REP. CULLEN (D)  REP. RHoadS (D)
REP. EVANS (D)  REP. SAiki (D)
REP. Fale (R)  REP. Say (D)
REP. FUKUMOTO (R)  REP. SOUKI (D)
REP. HANOHANO (D)  REP. TAKAI (D)
REP. HAR (D)  REP. TAKAYAMA (D)
REP. HASHEM (D)  REP. TAKUMI (D)
REP. ICHIYAMA (D)  REP. THIELEN (R)
REP. ING (D)  REP. TOKiOKA (D)
REP. JOHANSON (R)  REP. TSUJI (D)
REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. WARD (R)
REP. KAWAKAMI (D)  REP. WOODSON (D)
REP. KOBAYASHI (D)  REP. WOOLEY (D)
REP. LEE (D)  REP. YAMANE (D)
REP. LOWEN (D)  REP. YAMASHITA (D)
REP. LUKE (D)
REP. MATSUMOTO (R)

SEN. BAKER (D)  SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)
SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)  SEN. ENGLISH (D)
SEN. ESPERO (D)  SEN. GABBARD (D)
SEN. GALUTERIA (D)  SEN. GREEN (D)
SEN. HEE (D)  SEN. IGE (D)
SEN. IHARA (D)  SEN. KAHELE (D)
SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)  SEN. KIDANI (D)
SEN. KIM (D)  SEN. KOUCHI (D)
SEN. NISHIHARA (D)  SEN. RUDERMAN (D)
SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)
SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)  SEN. THIELEN (D)
SEN. TOKUDA (D)  SEN. WAKAI (D)

REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism
HB 1539. Public Housing Reform.

This bill requires the return of a housing choice voucher to the Hawaii Public Housing Authority upon the death or removal from assistance of the last original household member or upon the youngest minor of the household reaching the age of twenty-one or twenty-three if the minor is a full-time student. It also prohibits adding legal guardians to the household unless the legal guardian is also eligible for participation in the program. HIRA supports measures that decrease dependency on government and putting an end to generations of entitlement such as public housing units occupied for decades by the same family while those on waiting lists for those units languish. The State House passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 49-1. The State Senate passed the bill on April 29, 2014 by a vote of 25-0.

**FOR PUBLIC HOUSING REFORM**

REP. AQUINO (D)  REP. MCDERMOTT (R)  SEN. BAKER (D)  SEN. CHUN OAKLAND (D)  SEN. DELA CRUZ (D)  SEN. ENGLISH (D)  SEN. ESPERO (D)  SEN. GABBAR (D)  SEN. GALUTERIA (D)  SEN. GREEN (D)  SEN. HEE (D)  SEN. IGE (D)  SEN. IHARA (D)  SEN. KAHELE (D)  SEN. KEITH-AGARAN (D)  SEN. KIDANI (D)  SEN. KIM (D)  SEN. KOUCHI (D)  SEN. NISHIHARA (D)  SEN. RUDERMAN (D)  SEN. SHIMABUKURO (D)  SEN. SLOM (R)  SEN. SOLOMON (D)  SEN. TANIGUCHI (D)  SEN. THIELEN (D)  SEN. TOKUDA (D)  SEN. WAKAI (D)

**AGAINST REFORM**

REP. JORDAN (D)  REP. ITO (D) - no rating due to absenteeism  REP. MATSUMOTO (R)
ELECTIONS HAVE CONSEQUENCES
CANDIDATES MATTER
VALUES MATTER
POSITIONS MATTER
VOTES MATTER
POLICIES MATTER

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