



# NEWS

## AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

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## Councilman Rod Tam (D-6) Breaks His Promise to Hawaii Taxpayers

*Councilmen Charles Djou (R-4) and Michael Gabbard (R-1) stood with Hawaii taxpayers*

The Honolulu City Council voted 7 to 2 in favor of a 7 percent tax rate increase for commercial, industrial, and hotel properties, despite Oahu's recent increase in property value that is already expected to generate an additional \$13.5 million in taxes. Charles Djou and Mike Gabbard were the two councilmen that voted against the tax rates, and Councilman Rod Tam voted in favor of the tax increase.

The three Councilmen, Tam, Djou, and Gabbard, have signed the Taxpayer Protection Pledge sponsored by Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), one of the nation's leading advocates for taxpayers. Upon signing the Pledge, a candidate/ incumbent promises to "oppose (and vote against/ veto) any and all efforts to increase taxes."

Tam broke the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, his promise to Hawaii taxpayers, and voted for the new 7 percent tax rate increase.

**"Tam made a commitment to protect Hawaii taxpayers and won a strong support base through such promises,"** said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **"It's a slap on the face to his supporters"**

Over 128,000 new tax bills are being sent out to property owners and mortgagers, demanding this new 7% tax rate to be paid by August 23, 2004. Those who do not receive their tax bill are not exempt from the August 23 deadline, and are charged a late penalty of 10 percent plus interest.

**"I applaud Councilmen Djou and Gabbard's courage to stand with Hawaii taxpayers,"** said Grover Norquist, president of ATR. **"Unlike others who worship the tax and spend system, they pursue other creative and rational methods of balancing the city's budget rather than stealing more money from Hawaii taxpayers. The biggest obstacle standing between the people of Hawaii and a prosperous economy is its bloated government."**

Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all federal, state and local tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Jonathan Collegio at (202) 785-0266 or at [jcollegio@atr.org](mailto:jcollegio@atr.org)