



NEWS

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Hawai'i Taxpayers Crushed with Nation's Highest Tax Bill

Push for Hawai'i state legislators to sign Taxpayer Protection Pledge

WASHINGTON – Following recent reports illustrating Hawai'i's continuous lead in the nation's highest tax bill, Americans for Tax Reform, the nation's leading advocate for taxpayers, demands the Hawai'i state government to decrease the heavy tax burden crushing Hawai'i taxpayers and press each state legislator to sign the ATR sponsored State Taxpayer Protection Pledge. The State Taxpayer Protection Pledge is a promise to Hawai'i taxpayers to “oppose and vote against any and all efforts to increase taxes.”

Grover Norquist, taxpayer advocate leader and president of ATR stated, **“The heavy tax burden on Hawai'i taxpayers stifles competition and gives an inefficient government a larger pool of tax dollars to waste on useless projects and fails to provide even a decent amount of benefit for taxpayers.”**

The U.S. Census Bureau once again placed Hawai'i's state tax bill at No. 1. Hawai'i's per capita state tax bill in 2003 was at \$2,838, \$954 more than the national average and \$1,522 more than Texas, the nation's lowest state tax bill. Hawai'i's 1.25 million taxpayers paid \$3.349 billion in state taxes last year, with 82 percent of those taxes going to the state. The amount of tax dollars Hawai'i residents pay is more than their average monthly spending on housing, transportation and food costs.

Hawai'i's centralized state government dominates education, health care, social services and other functions that are usually managed at a county or municipal level. This sort of dominant state government has consistently led Hawai'i taxpayers to pay the most per person in state taxes in the nation.

“Government exists for the people, to provide only those things the private sector can't,” said Norquist, **“not to strategically centralize power and control through government bureaucracies.”**

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.