



The REALTOR® Building
1136 12th Avenue, Suite 220
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

Phone: (808) 733-7060
Fax: (808) 737-4977
Neighbor Islands: (888) 737-9070
Email: har@hawaiiirealtors.com

April 20, 2009

The Honorable [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
State Capitol, Room [REDACTED]
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Tax Increases

Aloha [REDACTED]:

The Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR") represents over 9,600 members statewide. We believe in working together with the State on issues that benefit our entire State, such as affordable rentals and housing and creating sound tax policy.

Both in Hawai'i and nationally, we have been seeing considerable private sector layoffs, increases in bankruptcy and foreclosure filings, and hard working people struggling every day to make ends meet for themselves and their families.

Under these difficult conditions, we believe that it is not sound public policy to increase taxes for residents and businesses. Tax increases will only exacerbate the economic situation which we all face. Attempting to ease the State's budget deficit through tax increases will work against the goal of financial recovery by decreasing spending and making it more difficult for people to make ends meet. At a time when Hawai'i residents are in more need of assistance than ever before, tax increases will add to the financial burden on individuals, families and small businesses.

We understand that during these tough economic times, the Legislature must consider and make difficult choices. However, we respectfully ask you to not raise taxes for Hawaii residents.

Should you have any questions, or wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me at (808) 733-7060.

Sincerely,

HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

[REDACTED]

Judith E. Kalbrener
2009 President