

Prevailing Winds



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And we're off! and if I may say, premature perhaps, a feeling of optimism is in the air and the anticipation of better times lies ahead. I for one, am tired of trying to balance the budget with shrinking revenues and growing demand for government services. I am sure government workers, both employees and management, are tired of always waiting for that budget ax to fall. It is difficult to simultaneously develop sound fiscal policy and second guess the economy. The problems that we face today in the areas of education, health, and human services are not going to disappear. Some will require restructuring while others will require continual management.

As I think about the upcoming session, I realize how cyclical life is. I guess that's the reason we study history; being old helps too. At times local colloquialism best describes life's cycle.



The three cycles of political life according to Choy:

For the past three years we were in the "*can can, no can, no can*" mode. Mostly in the "*no can*" mode.

We are now evolving to the "*try try*" phase of economic recovery and soon will be in the "*chance' um*" mode.

Let me explain, when we were in the "*no mo money mode*" it was a matter of trying to prioritize our spending (much easier said than done.) We implemented across the board cuts and then vertical cuts.

Taxing the "sins" was a very popular method to raise revenues but the explanation given to everyone was "*if we can do it, we will, but if we cannot then we will not force the issue.*" That is the "*can can, no can no can*" method. Now as the economic recovery progresses, we are in the "*try try*" mode.

We are not absolutely sure what will help or hurt the recovery.

We aren't going to say no to any suggestion, but basically will propose an idea and see if it gains momentum.

The last phase of economic recovery is the "*chance 'um mode.*" When "surplus" occurs, we begin to think that government can (actually) permanently affect the economy and start investing in ideas that may or may not work, just "*chance 'um*".

Looking back over the last ten years, we have gone through all of these cycles for academia to study. (Yikes, permanent job creation.)

My personal strategy is to move with great caution. I like the "*green in the jean*" theory which really means "*show me the money.*" For the last three years, we have managed to survive and I must have done a pretty good job since I am still here. There is still a long way to go and I am excited to move from the survival mode to policy issues.

My personal agenda hasn't changed from the day I was elected. I still believe in tax compliance and tax fairness. In theory, if everyone paid their fair share and correct amount of tax, we would all pay less tax. Tax preferences are not fair; 95% of my business clients nor I have ever benefited from tax preferences. Thus, we must restore the tax base.

This doesn't mean that I am against government getting into the tax preference arena. *First*, we should recognize that tax preferences are just that, preferences. *Second*, we should give certain preferences to start or support businesses that have the potential to help our residents. However, it should not turn into corporate welfare and be perpetuated to the point that the business is dependent on the credit for survival. *Third*, the preference should be measurable, accountable, and of short duration.

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Fourth, if the preference cannot be administered it should not be given.

If given the choice between spending dollars for establishing business infrastructure or tax preferences, I would opt for shoring up our educational, scientific and communications programs.

Opening Day of the 2012 Legislative Session is Wednesday, January 18, 2012 and observing the art of consent, collaboration, and compromise will be as entertaining as ever. Until next month...



Mahalo and Aloha,

Isaac W. Choy



Manoa NSWs Out in the Community



The Manoa NSW Recruitment Team was on hand at the Manoa Legislative Town Meeting on 12/15/11 to assist concerned Manoa residents on how to form a Neighborhood Security Watch on their street.

**INTERESTED IN FORMING A
MANOA NEIGHBORHOOD SECURITY
WATCH**

Contact the Manoa NSW Recruitment Team:

RALEIGH FERDUN: Tel: 988-3714
Email: neighbor@manoa.homeserver.com
NORMAN WONG: Tel: 944-1993
Email: norm516@hawaiiantel.net



Mahalo to all the Manoa NSWs for making your community a safer place to live.

View My Newsletters, Bill Status & Documents, Legislative Information, House/Senate, Photos, Links:
<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/memberpage.aspx?member=choy>

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