

# 2011 Legislative Action Plan

# Economy, Education, Government

The Republican Caucus will immediately introduce the following legislation and procedural reforms in the 2011 Legislative Session to improve the faith and trust of Hawaii's citizens in their Government:

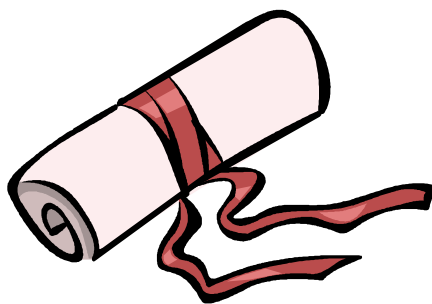
## OUR ECONOMY

- **JOB CREATION ACT** – Provides tax credits for companies that manufacture and export goods and services from Hawaii. Provides healthcare cost reimbursements to small businesses that hire new employees. Encourages the creation of new businesses by reducing start-up costs and processing time on permits and approvals.
- **NO NEW TAXES ACT** – Changes House Rules to require a supermajority vote to increase the cost of living on Hawaii's people.
- **LOWER YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL ACT** – Provides access to photovoltaic and solar systems for homeowners and small businesses by defraying upfront installation costs. Program is funded through state bonds repaid over 20 year amortization period on the homeowner's property tax bill, helping Hawaii homeowners to substantially lower their electricity costs.



## OUR EDUCATION

- **FOLLOW THE MONEY IN EDUCATION ACT** – Requires an independent, comprehensive financial and management audit of the Department of Education. Requires review for implementation of the findings of audit.
- **APPOINTED BOARD OF EDUCATION ACT** – Establishes guidelines and accountability standards for the Governor's Office to implement the



constitutional amendment on the November ballot for the governor to appoint the Board of Education.

- **HIGHER PAY FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE ACT** – Ensures "Race to the Top" educational reforms are carried out, including extra funding to schools that implement innovative programs and performance-based salaries for teachers. Also requires that 90% of funds go directly to students or teachers at the classroom level.

## OUR GOVERNMENT

- **CONTROL GOVERNMENT SPENDING ACT** – Ensures compliance with the constitutional cap on government spending by not allowing any appropriations beyond the ceiling limit. Requires "price tags" for all legislation so voters know exactly how much each piece of legislation will cost (or save).
- **OPEN, HONEST GOVERNMENT ACT** – Requires that "sunshine laws," which help assure government business is more transparent, apply to the Legislature and that changes to legislative bills are not made behind closed doors.
- **THE PEOPLE'S VETO ACT** – Provides citizens with referendum power to recall or veto bills passed by the Legislature or signed by the Governor. This serves as a safety valve for harmful legislation.
- **TERM LIMITS FOR LEGISLATORS ACT** – Encourages citizen-legislators by limiting Senators to two terms and Representatives to four terms. Allows for new solutions from people with new ideas.



The Republican Caucus pledges to take the above actions for the sake of our keiki, the development of our economy, and the accountability of our government.

## WHY DOES BALANCE MATTER?

Hawaii's history teaches us that when one party, Republican or Democrat, dominates government, the members of that party make decisions that cater to maintaining power— not doing what is in the best interests of the people. A balanced, two-party system spurs open discussion, bold ideas and innovative solutions.

50 years ago, Republicans were the first to make the mistake of allowing special interests to overtake the will of the people. Since then, Democrats have dominated politics in Hawaii while allowing important issues facing our residents to go unresolved. The so-called Big 5 corporations have become the Big 4 unions in power. The voice of the people is often ignored by the majority party, which makes up 90 percent of elected officials. Bottom line: To get better results, Hawaii needs legislators with fresh ideas.

## WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

What Hawaii needs is a balanced government. A government that encourages job creation, provides excellent public education and exemplifies honesty and accountability. For the past eight years, we've brought balance to the executive branch of state government. Now, we need a responsive, effective and balanced state legislature.

**ECONOMY:** A government that holds the line on taxes and keeps the cost of living down for the people of Hawaii, especially basic necessities such as food, medicine and gasoline.

**EDUCATION:** Good teachers should be rewarded, students should be allowed a full school year, and parents should have more input in a public education system that puts children first.

**GOVERNMENT:** The people of Hawaii deserve to know what their legislature will do and what it will cost. Hawaii deserves more leaders that are transparent and accountable.

*Paid for by the Hawaii Republican Party*  
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## New Ideas to Improve Hawaii's Future

