



Gil Riviere®

House District 46 - North Shore

GilRiviere.com

Gil Gets it Done!

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Kuilima, Kahuku, Laie, Poamoho, Schofield, Wheeler, Kunia Camp.

**Gil Riviere Has a Proven
Track Record of Success Leading:**

Keep the North Shore Country • Waialua Little League

Let's Surf Coalition • Neighborhood Board Traffic Committee



To the residents of the North Shore:

Over the next few months, I would like to share some of my thoughts about current issues and I hope you will share your thoughts, both positive and negative, by calling me at 220-2280 or emailing Gil@GilRiviere.com.

Sincerely, Gil Riviere

Cost of Living

"A billion here, a billion there, pretty soon you're talking about real money." Attributed to Illinois Senator Everett Dirksen in the 1960s, this pithy comment sums up the fiscal irresponsibility that so commonly afflicts our elected officials.

While most legislation is well intentioned, our leaders often fail to consider the long term impacts on the cost of living that new taxes, fees, agencies and regulations bring. As government grows larger, so too does the cost to operate the government. The cost of government is paid, of course, by the public. Money paid into government is money that is not available for individuals to use.

The number of state employees has grown 29% in the last 20 years, from 57,100 in 1990 to 73,700 in 2009. The cost to pay state employee salaries and benefits has nearly doubled in the last nine years. The budget crisis that our government continues to face was not unforeseeable. Indeed, we had a budget surplus three years ago and our Legislature chose to increase spending rather than return it to taxpayers.

This year, the Legislature failed to effectively re-

duce the long-term cost of government, opting instead to create or increase more than a dozen new fees and taxes, to raid special funds, and to hope that the economy improves before they have to look at the numbers again in 2011.

We don't need more legislation that increases our sky-high cost of living by creating duplicative agencies. We don't need more Barrel Taxes, which add three cents to every gallon of gasoline and increase our electricity costs. We don't need more Container Taxes, which add 50 cents to every ton of cargo that arrives in Hawai'i. We don't need threats of raising the General Excise Tax to further cripple our economy. The cumulative cost of all these fees and taxes is crushing us.

Reducing the size and cost of government is the best way to get more money back into the pockets of our residents and lower the cost of living. Our legislators must commit to tightening the state's belt in 2011 rather than looking for new ways to take more money out of our pockets.