

What they say about the Tax Foundation of Hawaii...

■
“If we didn’t have such an organization, we would certainly need to invent it.”

– A.A. Smyser, Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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“Legislators...quietly admit Kalapa is one of the most powerful voices at the State Capitol.”

– Richard Borreca, Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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“[Lowell Kalapa] tells it like it is. He’s one of the few people in the private sector who looks at taxes (and budget issues) without an ax to grind.”

– Former Hawaii State Tax Director, Rick Kahle, as quoted in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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“[Lowell Kalapa is] a straight shooter.”

– Rep. Calvin Say (the House Finance Committee chairman, now Speaker), as quoted in the Honolulu Star-Bulletin

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“Imagine if legislators relied only upon the state Tax Department, under the auspices of the governor’s office, for its sole analysis of budgetary matters. Frightening.”

– Honolulu Star-Bulletin editorial

To keep our publications and informational activities alive...

To continue our work on behalf of the taxpayers of Hawaii... we need your (tax-deductible) support. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

While we have no schedule of dues, we suggest a minimum annual membership of \$100 (individual) or \$500 (business). For a minimum \$1,000 membership, you will receive our Legislative Tax Bill Service.

Please support our vital work.

Make your check payable to Tax Foundation of Hawaii and mail it to:

Tax Foundation of Hawaii
126 Queen Street, Suite 304
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

For more information, check our website
www.tfhawaii.org

(808) 536-4587

Tax Foundation of Hawaii

An independent, nonprofit, educational organization for the public interest



“One of Hawaii’s only independent think tanks.”

Richard Borreca, Honolulu Star-Bulletin



Our interest is the public interest.

We are not beholden to special interests.
Not business. **Not** labor. **Not** government.
Not any political party or philosophy.

Our Mission:

We believe that the public should be informed about state and county government finances - and Hawaii's policymakers about the consequences of their proposals - in order to promote...

- Government efficiency and economy
- Tax fairness
- Economic growth and stability

PLAIN ENGLISH SUMMARY:

"We tell it like it is."

OLDE ENGLISH EQUIVALENT:

"When the Emperor has no clothes, we let you know!"

What, exactly does the Tax Foundation of Hawaii do?

- It issues a **straight-talking weekly commentary** by its president, Lowell Kalapa, which regularly appears in the Garden Island, Maui News, Molokai Advertiser - News, and West Hawaii Today.
- It **provides legislative testimony** at both state and county level.
- It **participates** in several hundred community meetings and public hearings annually.
- It **provides balanced, perceptive input** to - and does numerous interviews with - Hawaii's newspapers and radio and TV news operations.
- It **publishes Government in Hawaii**, an annual data book on state and county revenues, expenditures, public debt, and the state's economy.
- It **publishes an annual Legislative Review**. Volume I summarizes all legislation approved by the State Legislature. Volume II summarizes the fiscal impact of the legislation approved.
- It **publishes Legislative Tax Bill Service**, a series of digests of tax and public finance legislation.
- It **maintains an informative website**, www.tfhawaii.org.

Our job is to collect, analyze and publish information about government taxation, spending and regulation that affects the well-being of every person in our state.

Our work is made possible solely by private contributions and memberships — and we need yours.

We wouldn't accept government support even if it were offered (which it's not), because our job is to serve as your public watchdog.

When the government tries to dig even deeper into your pocket, to raise taxes and call it something else ("user fees"), to raise new barriers to job-creation (*aka* business), to hide resources ("special funds"), we bark.

But independence, like liberty, has its price. And it must be paid not only in eternal vigilance, but also in dollars and cents.