

Prevailing Winds

Representative Isaac W. Choy

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*Manoa, University,
Moiliili*



Paine

I thought I would start this news letter with a little Paine...

On December 23, 1776, Thomas Paine wrote; "*These are the times that try men's souls: The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of his country, but he that stands NOW, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.*"

Now that the legislative session is over and the budget set, the predictable criticisms and bickering have started. The cries of the special interests, second guessing, and positioning for future political gain are now in full swing. Doesn't this all seem like business as usual? Though the crisis still remains, I am satisfied that the state legislature has taken a stand; not many will agree with what was done, every segment of our populace is affected. Truly, these times will try men's souls. Let's stand back and watch who are the summer soldiers and sunshine patriots. But also watch for a true leader to rise from the ashes; he will be one with the deepest wounds and most battle scars.

Shifting gears, I always wanted to address the popular rhetoric "why can't government be more like business?" I was reading an explanation in the "Yellow Book " (U.S. Government Auditing Standards) the other day and found an interesting discussion on this very subject. In the private sector, tasks are undertaken unless explicitly prohibited, and in the public sector, tasks are performed only if explicitly permitted. This statement alone explains the inefficiency of government. Can you imagine looking for exact instructions before performing any tasks? Under this regime, the government worker will be wiser not to do anything than to take the initiative to do something.

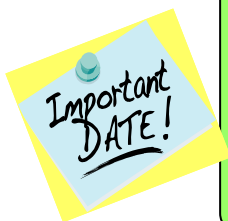
I remember during a hearing on a procurement bill, a testifier complained about the procurement procedures and how another bidder got the job. I talked to the testifier after the hearing and questioned him about the other bidder. I asked, was the job done within budget, on time and with the requisite quality required? He said it was, so I naturally asked what's the "beef"? He stated that the procurement rules with which his competitor was chosen were unfair.

Unlike the private sector, the government works under strict laws, rules and procedures all under the watchful eye of the public. There is no profit motive in government, the goal is to follow the rules and to be able to justify any deviations from the rules. If the job gets done following all of the rules, it is a good job. In the private sector, getting a job done below the budgeted amount, early and with superior quality is the mark of success.

Manoa Town Meeting

Senator Brian Taniguchi, Dist. 10 Rep. Isaac Choy, Dist. 24

Sat. June 13, 2009 Manoa Elementary School Cafeteria 9:30-11:30 am




The public does not allow government to perform like the private sector, so it is naïve to think that government can operate like a business.

This is not to say that fraud, waste or abuse should be tolerated in government. These items are always at the top of the auditors watch list. The challenge is to find managers who can work within the parameters set by the people's expectations and still accomplish the mission of government. I have had the privilege of meeting such managers in our state government. Unfortunately not all of them have the qualities needed to manage in a governmental environment.

I have moved back to my Mauka office in Manoa. I am there everyday from 7a.m. The coffee is free, so come by to visit and we can commiserate over the state of our state.

Alaka, Isaac W. Choy

(Visit Rep. Choy at: **MANOA CONSULTING GROUP** 2733 East Manoa Rd.  988-5757 ext. 11 Free Parking too)



It's late Friday night in Finance Committee...last night of Conference. Rep. Choy prays, "please let my bill pass."

Left to right: **Representatives Pono Chong, Marcus Oshiro, James Tokioka & Isaac Choy.**

Rep. Cliff Tsuji and Rep. Choy enjoy a break from hectic Conference schedule.



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