

Sermonette, Political Action, Gene Parola

Aloha--

In an era when the constant attack on the Electoral Process spans more than a quarter-century and counting, we find parallels to the fight against terrorism. In the latter, no nation is the enemy, only shadowy well-funded dissident groups. In the attack on our system, no particular political party is clearly the aggressor, only wealthy shadowy PACs that unofficially fund its destruction.

In such a climate all citizens need to be particularly vigilant because of the size of the aggressor's megaphone.

Locally, we are lucky that paying attention is much easier than it is nationally. And in order for us to respond, the legislature has created an office to make people participation in state lawmaking easy.

Your SJC has provided you with access to the services of that office and provided lawmakers' names, their committee responsibilities and the bills they introduce, take testimony on and finally pass or reject.

All that information appears on the SJC page of our beautiful new Web Site and it will be updated with new data after each election.

Regular email alerts have been issued about opportunities to testify and about the timing of critical votes.

E-mail testimony on Bills, makes the need to take a day off to appear in person unnecessary, nor do you need to demonstrate in the streets carrying a torch and pitchfork. Although nationally, these may yet be the actions of last resort.

In this session of the Legislature significant laws on Kupuna care were strengthened. And Faith Action for Community Equity, which your SJC is by-law related to, was instrumental in helping to pass the strongest law in the nation to protect foreclosed mortgage holders from semi-legal aggression by lenders.

Steve is Chair of our UU SJC/FACE subcommittee

But as a community, we failed in the words of former Representative Kirk Caldwell, to "*give lawmakers the courage to do the right thing*" i.e. to raise the necessary revenue to run a competent state government--a symptom of the same disease that enfeebles the Federal Government.

Taxes is not a four-letter word.

Mahalo for your attention