

Components of First Three TRC Reports

| | <u>1984</u> | <u>1988-89</u> | <u>1995-97</u> |
|---|--|--|---|
| Meta-Analysis of Overall Tax System or Structure? | Yes, 31 recommendations cover Overall Tax Structure, as well as GET, Personal Income Tax, Corp., Public Service Companies, Other Revenue Sources, Misc. | Yes, 33 recommendations for "General," Personal Income Tax, GET, Financial Institutions, County Revenues, Non-Resident Investment, "Other" plus commentary on Liquor Taxes, Corporate, Tax Amnesty, Business Climate | "After careful review of time and budgetary constraints, this Commission limited its scope to Hawaii's general excise tax, use tax, and net income tax." (About 20 recommendations) |
| Consultant Studies | Profs from UH, other universities wrote 10 reports: "Impact of Hawai'i's Taxes: A Look at Taxpayer Burden and Equity," "The Hawai'i Income Tax: A Case Study of Issues of Tax Base Conformity," "Examination of Horizontal Inequities and Possible Structural Anomalies of the Hawaii GET," "Evaluation of Tax Pyramiding and Exporting Through Input-Output Model," "Detailed Analysis of Tax Exporting," "Detailed Analysis of Tax Pyramiding," "Report on Elasticity of General Fund Taxes," "Fiscal Projections for State of Hawaii," "Business Taxation in Hawaii: A Comparative Analysis with Policy Simulations," "Incidence and Exportability of Hotel Occupancy and Other Tourist Taxes in Hawaii." | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Miklius, Moncur, & Leung: "Distribution of State and Local Tax Burden by Income Class" 2. KPMG Peat Marwick: "Analysis of the Hawai'i Individual Income Tax: Recent Trends and Projections" 3. Wm Fox: "Defining the General Excise Tax Base: Exemptions and Pyramiding" 4. S. McCray: "State Taxation of Banks: Issues and Options" | <p>Neither report nor DoTax Website indicates any consultant studies were commissioned.</p> <p><i>(Note: Commission chaired by partner in very large CPA firm, vice chaired by partner of very large law firm; also, UH Econ Prof on Commission.. May have donated some internal expertise??)</i></p> |
| DoTAX Studies for TRC | Contract staff (?) w/ several PhDs wrote 13 working papers: "Hawai'i's Changing Economy, 1960-80," "Comparative Review of Hawai'i's Fiscal System 1965-81," "Hawai'i Govt. Revenue Trends," "Inflation and Hawai'i Income Tax," "Judgmental Issues Related to Tax Equity: Tax Incidence and Funding Methods," "A Primer on Pyramiding," "Revenue Diversification: User Charges, Gambling Taxes, Local Non-Property Taxes," "State Tax Preferences to Stimulate Investment," "Ad Valorem vs Per Unit Tax on Liquor," "Special Issues of Hawaii Income Tax," "Results of TAT Survey," "Results of Survey on NonProfit Organizations on Oahu" | Contract staff (all?) w/ several PhDs wrote 10 studies: "Is Hawai'i Tax System Adequate?," "Budget Stabilization Funds," "Special Funds," "Origin of Hawai'i GET," "Hawai'i Bank Taxation," "Public Service Company Tax," "Transient Accommodations Tax," "Non-Resident Investment in Hawaii," "Tax Rate Adjustment Provision of HI Liquor Tax Law," "Cost of Unemployment Insurance and Workers' Comp Programs in HI." | <p>Staff apparently limited to a researcher/ writer (from C. Low & Associates, CPAs), and a volunteer secretary from Ernst & Young.</p> <p>Some acknowledgment to DoTax for "technical and administrative assistance" of unspecified natures -- no specific reports cited.</p> |
| Other Agency Studies for TRC | Unclear if any but Technical Advisory Board of 8 local/natl. tax experts | ?? Acknowledgements to DBED, B&F, others. Also, Advisory Commission on Intergovtl. Relations wrote long report on State-County fiscal issues | Acknowledgment for "data and comments" from B&F, DBED, and Tax Foundation |

Components of Last Three TRC Reports

| | <u>2001-03</u> | <u>2005-07</u> | <u>2010-13</u> |
|---|--|---|---|
| Meta-Analysis of Overall Tax System or Structure? | Not per se. Principles reviewed but no overall assessment. Rather, detailed focus on a dozen or so specific issues, which do cover a fairly broad range. | Brief general analysis using Brunori-type principles concluded overall structure good. Recommendations pertinent to "Overall Tax Policy" were mostly about limiting credits and exemptions. Other rec's were on high-tech credit, GET, Income, Tax Admin. | Little or none. Focus instead on coming revenue challenges (primary) and some specific issues such as e-commerce, tax commerce (secondary, with very broad recommendations). |
| Consultant Studies | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Wm Fox: Expert (largely qualitative) overview/analysis of GET 2. Andy Mason: Quantitative analysis of changing pension tax policy as population ages (less earned income) 3. Kimzey & Wilson: Quantitative analysis of systemic revenue adequacy (historic growth trends) 4. W. Fox and L. Luna: National review of "State Corporate Tax Revenue Trends" (<i>really an academic work?</i>) | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1: Sakai & Byrd: Quantitative analysis of Act 221 High-Tech Tax Credits 2. Wm Fox: Quantitative (and some expert theoretical) analysis of adding or removing specific GET exemptions. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PFM Group study on Adequacy and Alternative Tax Structures. Included forecast model and additional run utilizing accrual accounting for Pensions and OPEB -- this was very large study 2. Wm Fox: Quantitative analysis of GET revenue losses from (a) E-Commerce, and (b) 7 GET exemptions (nonprofits, drugs, health insurance, aircraft leasing, imported aircraft parts, prime contractor deductions for subs) |
| DoTAX Studies for TRC | None mentioned -- only staffer mentioned was a "Consultant to the State Dept. of Taxation" | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. TRP: Quantitative analysis of systemic revenue adequacy (historic growth trends) 2. TRP: Quantitative analysis of systemic overall regressivity (combined state/county) 3. TRP: Quantitative analysis of reducing/eliminating personal/business income tax but raising GET 4. TRP: Quantitative analysis of "Increasing HI Standard Deduction, Expanding Individual Income Tax Brackets, Enacting an Earned Income Tax Credit, and Food/Medical/Drug Credit" 5. TRP: Quick quantitative analyses of Revenue Implications of 66 different GET and Use Tax exemptions and deductions | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E. Fujino & D. Rousslang: Quantitative analysis of adequacy of revenue in light of ERS obligations 2. T. Sakata: Quantitative analysis of "Effects of Eliminating the Hawaii Individual Income Tax for Taxpayers with Income Below Poverty Level" 3. Detailed letters from DoTax Director: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collection of taxes, enforcement - Modernization, Computer System |
| Other Agency Studies for TRC | None mentioned | B&F Report on Budget Stabilization and general budget process | |