

Hawaii News

State's congressional delegation opposes furloughs

Thursday, June 18th, 2009

HONOLULU (AP) — Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle is announcing details of her plans Thursday to furlough as many as 46,500 state employees for three days a month, starting in July.

Hawaii's congressional delegation Wednesday urged her to reconsider her furlough plan, which is meant to close most of a \$729 million budget shortfall for the next two fiscal years that begin July 1.

U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka, and Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Mazie Hirono sent a letter to the Republican governor.

In it, they said a furlough of employees who are paid with federal money may result in a loss of those funds and lead to more program delays while saving the state nothing.

The four members of Congress are all Democrats.

The federal Social Security Administration made similar points to Lingle in a separate letter.