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Alaska and Hawaii have several things in common. We were the last two states to enter the Union. We're both physically separated from the rest of the U.S. We both have a high cost of living — and a high cost of government.

In fact, with a per capita cost of \$1,779 to support its state government, Hawaii is second highest among the fifty states. But Hawaii's not even close to Alaska, with a per capita expenditure for state government of \$3,558.

How can the average Alaskan family continue to live with this kind of tax burden hanging over their heads? The answer is — they can't — at least not comfortably — without revenue from the oil industry. State income from just one oil field now provides nearly two-thirds of Alaska's billion-plus annual state

budget. Oil revenues continue to prop up a state government that costs its citizens nearly three times more than the people of Hawaii pay. There are really only a couple of practical answers to the problem. We have to start now to put the lid on the cost of government, and at the same time create an environment where new sources of revenue, including new oil fields, can be developed in an orderly manner.

The Alaska Legislature and Administration are working to make these changes, but they will need our support. Let's all work together to get Alaska's economy rolling again.

Source: Alaska Legislative Information Office, Fiscal Budget 1978-1979
Administrative Services Office, State of Hawaii,
Fiscal Budget, 1978-1979

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