



# LEGISLATURE OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Capitol Building P.O. Box 1690 Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas U.S. Virgin Islands 00804

**ADLAH "FONCIE"  
DONASTORG**  
Senator, 28th Legislature

Member, Committees on:

*Financial Services,  
Infrastructure and Consumer  
Affairs*

*Housing, Sports  
and Veterans Affairs*

*Planning and  
Environmental Protection*

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## **Legislation Attached**

### **Senate Majority seeks to give itself \$1 Million Budget increase Appropriation special ordered to the Senate Agenda**

ST. THOMAS – Senator Adlah “Foncie” Donastorg said he was appalled at the Senate Majority’s effort to increase the Legislature’s budget by \$1 million.

The bill for the \$1 million increase was a last minute addition to the Senate Agenda and proposed by Senate Vice President Michael Thurland and Senator Samuel Sanes.

“The legislation includes several important, yet much smaller, appropriations for various projects,” Donastorg said. “I support these other appropriations 100 percent, but I cannot fathom giving this body a \$1 million budget increase without detailed explanation.”

The legislation proposed by Senators Thurland and Sanes simply states that the \$1 million is “for infrastructure repairs and upgrades.”

“My fellow senators and the people of the Virgin Islands need much greater details before handing over another \$1 million to this body,” Donastorg said. “What are these repairs and upgrades – more wood paneling for the Legislature’s entrance?”

Donastorg said he was particularly concerned that the Legislature’s leadership had apparently not sought Federal stimulus funds for improvements to its infrastructure.

“We do need to make all of our facilities more energy efficient and generally “greener”,” Donastorg said. “These kinds of upgrades will save us money in the long term and are worthy of investment, but we should look to those stimulus monies first.”

Donastorg said that there had been a tremendous amount of money spent since the Senate reorganization in April.

“Much of the work conducted has been merely cosmetic and this is not the time given our fiscal problems,” Donastorg said. “Additionally, there are some serious concerns being raised privately about kickbacks. These matters must be looked into before we give this institution another \$1 million.”

Donastorg said that he would propose legislation to amend the bill diverting the \$1 million appropriation with \$500,000 going to the Estate Nadir Flood Control Project and \$500,000 going to the La Valle Emergency Services Center.

“These are projects that I know for a fact are worthy of spending money on” Donastorg said. “In terms of Nadir, the Governor took money from this important flood control project on St. Thomas and reprogrammed it for use upgrading his private home. The La Valle Emergency Services Center is also critical to residents of St. Croix and, hopefully, this additional appropriation will allow the Administration to finally go forward.”