

TO: Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair of the Maui County Council
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
FROM: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez
RE: General Excise and Use Tax Surcharge (BFED-74)
DATE: June 9, 2023

Chair Sugimura, Councilmember Tom Cook, members of the Maui County Council.

My name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, I live at 85 Manino Circle, Apartment 202, Kihei, 96753. I have resided on Maui since 1998, My family arrived in 1870.

I am testifying this morning in support of the proposed General Excise and Use Tax Surcharge (BFED-74), Bill 49.

This is a creative way to assign funds to the purposes of the tax allocation and the One-half percent increase.

However, with the economic future somewhat cloudy and most working Maui families stretching the dollar to make ends meet in the face of rising costs, some may see this as an additional added cost to their cost of living.

Frankly, it may be. However, the Council, may, if it chooses, add potentially fiscally responsible conditions to the passage of the Bill.

#1. Require the Department to use environmentally sound and approved building Practices. Including LEED certification where applicable.

#2. Require a study of the newest concrete production techniques, and if found practicable, require their use in building projects and leading to construction cost reductions.

I have attached an article on this topic for your information to my testimony, which I have previously shared with the South Maui Council representative.

The Council has just passed a prudent and responsible budget for the upcoming year with terrific community input opportunities.

Those budget discussions led, in my view, to a budget accepted by the taxpayers of Maui County.

If it is possible to discuss and amend Bill 49?

This may also lead to greater understanding and acceptance by the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and I wish you all a Happy King Kamehameha Day.

From: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez tominmaui@icloud.com

Subject: FAST COMPANY: Solving the concrete paradox: How rebuilding Turkey could pave the way to a more sustainable future

Date: June 6, 2023 at 8:21 AM

To: Tom Cook cooksynergy@gmail.com

TB

Good morning Tom,

Long but fascinating article on concrete carbon sequestering strategy. Changing cement pellets used in concrete production.

You are the only builder on the Council.

Maui County uses how much concrete a year, and what are anticipated 10 year replacement amounts and cost?

Could a county concrete use and replacement plan help reduce carbon emissions and be less expensive than traditional construction and replacement practices? Save tax dollars and help reduce effects of climate change? Spend no new money. Reduce cost on existing tax money? Conservative centrist solution. Thank you, Tom.

Article Below:

Solving the concrete paradox: How rebuilding Turkey could pave the way to a more sustainable future

By using a common form of clay as a supplement in the production of cement, manufacturers might reduce their carbon emissions by as much as 75 percent.

Read in Fast Company: <https://apple.news/ALjOom60aRqS11vsCaUCdtQ>

Shared from [Apple News](#)

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