

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-06-09 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 06-09-23 09:00

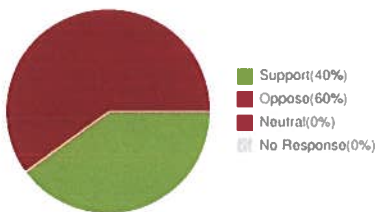
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-06-09 9:00 AM	06-09-23 09:00	3	5	2	3	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



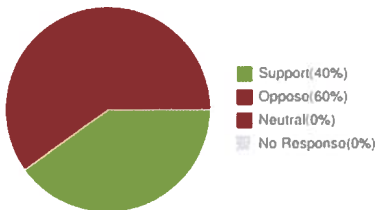
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-06-09 9:00 AM
06-09-23 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
BFED-21(3) MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER JURISDICTION: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND RECLAMATION FACILITIES IN CENTRAL MAUI (BFED-21(3))	1	0	1	0
BFED-74 CC 20-115 GENERAL EXCISE AND USE TAX SURCHARGE (BFED-74)	4	2	2	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

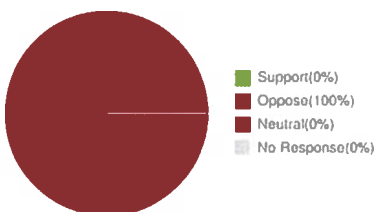
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-21(3) MATTERS WITHIN THE COMMITTEE'S SUBJECT-MATTER JURISDICTION: WASTEWATER TREATMENT AND RECLAMATION FACILITIES IN CENTRAL MAUI (BFED-21(3))

Overall Sentiment

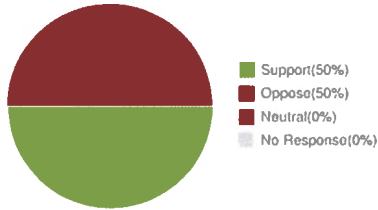


Guest User

Location:
 Submitted At: 4:33pm 06-08-23

I oppose an increase in the GE tax because, unlike other states, this tax is on EVERYTHING including food and drugs. Food prices have gone up substantially and I am concerned about older people on fixed incomes who already have financial problems. I'm also concerned about tenants - many of whom struggle to pay their rent every month - now having to pay another 1/2 percent of GET. Again, I oppose any increase to the GE tax. Thank you. Debra Merle

Overall Sentiment



Thomas Croly

Location:

Submitted At: 11:52pm 06-08-23

The Council recently approved an FY2014 budget that increased taxes by \$129 million over last year and \$214 million over the taxes it collected in FY2022. This two-year tax increase amounts to an increase of 53% above the taxes it collected in FY2022. Maui County has far more money than it can responsibly and effectively spend.

WE DO NOT NEED ADDITIONAL TAXES!!!

While creating infrastructure to facilitate affordable housing is a noble intent. Additional General Excise Tax that would actually increase costs for everything Maui's residents spend money on, including, food, medication, rent, and all services. And is not the proper method of financing such a endeavor. Not to mention, the County has no internal resources for building such infrastructure and would need to outsource all such projects to likely one private company who is the only entity that would be able to bid on such projects. The rail project on Oahu is the best example of a well intentioned project gone awry. And that began 13 years ago with a 1/2 cent GET increase.

Just say no to this massive money grab.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:07pm 06-08-23

Dear Committee Chair Sugimura, Council Chair Lee and Committee Members,

My name is Roy Vandoorn, I am a resident of Wailuku and I representing myself. I am not a paid lobbyist.

I am writing in support of the GET Surcharge. Thank you, Chair Lee, for introducing Bill 49.

I understand the none of you ran for public office to raise taxes. I don't like paying taxes and certainly don't want to pay more in taxes.

I am also aware that General Excise Tax is a regressive tax and as such hurts the lower income earners the most. I have used this argument in the past to argue against GET tax increases.

Having said that, Maui has a housing crisis. Obviously not news to any of you. For years when the question was asked, who pays for growth? The answer was the developers, which really meant the home buyers or the renters of the new units. This also hurts the lower income earner the most by increasing rents and making homeownership impossible for many of our residents.

I propose that the answer to the question, who pays for growth change to all of us. We all need to pitch in to help address the housing crisis. When I say "all" this includes our visitors. The one tax we all pay is the General Excise Tax. The state via HB 1363, now Act 48, is giving Maui one last chance to implement the GET surcharge which all the other counites in Hawaii have already implemented. The state is also allowing the money to be

used for housing infrastructure.

I support the implementation of the 0.5% surcharge as long as the money is directed toward housing infrastructure that will support the development of workforce and affordable housing.

Ericka Chavez

Location:

Submitted At: 7:24pm 06-08-23

BFED-74 General Excise and Use Tax Surcharge

Friday, June 8, 2024

Aloha Members of the Board,

As a resident of Pukalani and human services worker, I do not support BFED-74 to establish the General Excise Tax surcharge. I currently work as a case manager under the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services division and serve as a member on the County's Commission on Children and Youth. Every day I see Native Hawaiians and Maui born residents struggle to find and secure affordable housing to house themselves and their keiki. Any addition to taxes will greatly affect our already struggling families. To say these added funds will be used for infrastructure and in turn will "reduce the cost to the homebuyer" is not a solution to creating affordable housing opportunities for our most vulnerable residents. Funding is otherwise needed to create programs to give grants to Native Hawaiian and Maui born residents to obtain permanent housing on dwellings that are already here and established. When you look at the amount of abandoned property here, why would we need to destroy more natural resources and land in order to create more business opportunities for nonresidents potentially? I do not support this increase in tax that will only make it less affordable to live here now for those who were never destined to reap the benefits in future. I urge the board to take these concerns into consideration and not establish the surcharge for this intended purpose.

Sincerely,

Ericka Chavez

Pamela Tumpap

Location:

Submitted At: 4:10pm 06-08-23

Please see attached testimony.

BFED-74 General Excise and Use Tax Surcharge

Friday, June 8, 2024

Aloha Members of the Board,

As a resident of Pukalani and human services worker, I do not support BFED-74 to establish the General Excise Tax surcharge. I currently work as a case manager under the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services division and serve as a member on the County's Commission on Children and Youth. Every day I see Native Hawaiians and Maui born residents struggle to find and secure affordable housing to house themselves and their keiki. Any addition to taxes will greatly affect our already struggling families. To say these added funds will be used for infrastructure and in turn will "reduce the cost to the homebuyer" is not a solution to creating affordable housing opportunities for our most vulnerable residents. Funding is otherwise needed to create programs to give grants to Native Hawaiian and Maui born residents to obtain permanent housing on dwellings that are already here and established. When you look at the amount of abandoned property here, why would we need to destroy more natural resources and land in order to create more business opportunities for nonresidents potentially? I do not support this increase in tax that will only make it less affordable to live here now for those who were never destined to reap the benefits in future. I urge the board to take these concerns into consideration and not establish the surcharge for this intended purpose.

Sincerely,

Ericka Chavez



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

BFED-74
General Excise and Use Tax Surcharge
Friday, June 8, 2024

Dear Committee Chair Sugimura, Committee Vice-Chair Kama, and
Members of the Budget, Finance, & Economic Development Committee,

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports BFED-74 to establish the General Excise Tax surcharge and supported the extension bill at the State Legislature over the past few years.

We are currently in a crisis state due to the lack of attainable housing on Maui. This issue is greatly impacting workers and businesses across our community and is one of our top priorities. Funding for housing infrastructure is a key piece to expediting the creation of more attainable housing and rental units and is often the issue that keeps attainable housing and rental projects from penciling out.

While increasing taxes on businesses is always a difficult decision, we support adopting this GET surcharge as the funds will be used for housing infrastructure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.