



**Testimony submitted by
Trustee Luana Alapa to**

Maui County Council

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

BFED-78

COUNTY PROPERTY TAX REFORM

September 29, 2021 1:30 p.m. Online Meeting

IN SUPPORT

As the elected Office of Hawaiian Affairs Trustee representing the beneficiaries of Molokai and Lanai, I submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of the bill proposed in BFED-78, “*which would protect Native Hawaiian and other Maui county families from unprecedented tax burdens that may lead to the dispossession of their ‘āina kūpuna, or ancestral lands. Allowing such families to pay the minimum tax on lands that have sustained them for at least three generations will help to ensure that the speculation-driven increase in Maui property values does not further dispossess Native Hawaiians from their ancestral lands, and erode away the living vestiges of Maui’s cultural heritage.*” as previously stated in testimony by CEO Sylvia Hussey of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Many Native Hawaiians have experienced hardship and loss of land claimed by others or due to inability to pay high taxes as land values increase. This bill will enable Ohana landowners who have genealogical ties and connection to their “place” to be able to have reasonable tax affordability to keep their ancestral lands.

It is without hesitation that I **SUPPORT** this most significant County Tax Reform legislation for our Native Hawaiian Ohana and kuleana landowners.

BFED Committee

From: Keani N. Rawlins
Sent: Wednesday, September 29, 2021 12:08 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Fwd: BFED COMMITTEE HEARING TESTIMONY TODAY AT 1:30om
Attachments: image003.png; BFED 78.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Pohai Ryan <pohair@oha.org>
Date: September 29, 2021 at 10:21:28 AM HST
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: "Keani N. Rawlins" <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>
Subject: **BFED COMMITTEE HEARING TESTIMONY TODAY AT 1:30om**

Please accept Trustee Alapa's written testimony in support of BFED-78. See attached.
Mahalo,