

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

SCOTT K. TERUYA
Director

STEVE A. TESORO
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

December 12, 2023

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

12-13-23
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

SUBJECT: REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS OR WILDFIRES (BFED-35)

Pursuant to your letter dated November 29, 2023, regarding The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee recently recommended Bill 95, CD1 (2023), be passed on first reading. Bill 95, CD1's purposes are to: 1) provide real property tax relief to those affected by the wildfires, and 2) introduce a tax exemption for properties housing an individual or individuals displaced by the wildfires for at least six months but less than twelve months, below are the responses to the following questions:

1. How are property owners being notified of the available programs and benefits for housing displaced individuals or families currently and in the future?
 - a. Identify the forms of media, such as mailers, being used to relay the information.



Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair

December 12, 2023

Page 2

Response: The Department of Finance is working with FEMA and the Office of the Mayor. The Mayor's Office has initiated a social media campaign. FEMA held an Industry Day meeting on December 8, 2023 and it was attended by over 300 people. The exemption program has been featured on the local news. FEMA is holding another Industry Day meeting on December 21, 2023 and the Real Property Assessment Division (RPAD) will be there to assist and promote the program. The RPAD is updating their website to feature the program. On December 11, 2023, the Governor reported that FEMA sent out 13,000 letters to property owners.

- b. Is the information being sent to property owners for all real property tax classifications, including Apartment and Non-owner-occupied properties?

Response: Non-owner-occupied properties are being included in the mailout. Apartment properties are not included in the mailout and are not eligible for the long-term-rental exemptions. They already have a low real property tax rate.

If you have any questions, please contact me at extension no. 7474 or Deputy Director Steve A. Tesoro at extension no. 7475.

Sincerely,



SCOTT K. TERUYA
Director of Finance

SKT:mm

Attachment

DUE 12/17/23

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

November 29, 2023

Mr. Scott Teruya, Director
Department of Finance
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RECEIVED
COUNTY OF MAUI
2023 NOV 29 PM 2:55
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Dear Mr. Teruya:

SUBJECT: REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY NATURAL DISASTERS OR WILDFIRES (BFED-35)

The Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee recently recommended Bill 95, CD1 (2023), be passed on first reading. Bill 95, CD1's purposes are to: 1) provide real property tax relief to those affected by the wildfires, and 2) introduce a tax exemption for properties housing an individual or individuals displaced by the wildfires for at least six months but less than twelve months.

May I please request a response to the following:

1. How are property owners being notified of the available programs and benefits for housing displaced individuals or families currently and in the future?
 - a. Identify the forms of media, such as mailers, being used to relay the information.
 - b. Is the information being sent to property owners for all real property tax classifications, including Apartment and Non-owner-occupied properties?

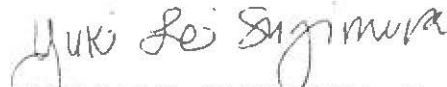
May I further request you transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **December 13, 2023**. To ensure efficient

Mr. Scott Teruya
November 29, 2023
Page 2

processing, please include the relevant Committee item number in the subject line of your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (James Krueger at ext. 7761, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:ltr:035afn04:jgk

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.

BFED Committee

From: Michelle Santos <Michelle.Santos@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, December 13, 2023 2:25 PM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Cynthia Sasada; Didi Hamai; Josiah Nishita; Kekuhaupio Akana; Leo Caires; Louise Batoon; Pili Nahooikaika; Scott Teruya; Steve Tesoro
Subject: MT#10427 Real Property Tax Exemption For Properties Impacted by Natural Disasters or Wildfires
Attachments: MT#10427-BFED Committee.pdf

NOTE: PLEASE DO NOT FORWARD MY EMAIL TO ANYONE OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI. YOU MAY CLICK ON THE ATTACHMENT ITSELF AND CREATE YOUR OWN EMAIL TO FORWARD THE DOCUMENT TO ANOTHER PERSON OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTY.

Michelle L. Santos

Office Operations Assistant

Office of the Mayor
County of Maui
200 S. High Street 9th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793
phone: (808) 270-7855
fax: (808) 270-7870