

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-29 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 10-29-24 09:00

eComments Report

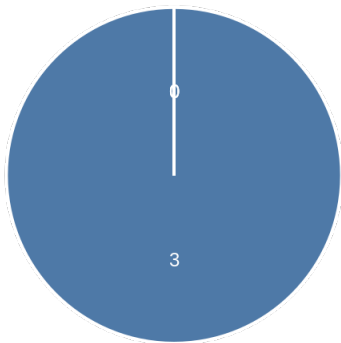
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-29 9:00 AM	10-29-24 09:00	4	3	3	0	0

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

Support (100%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (0%)



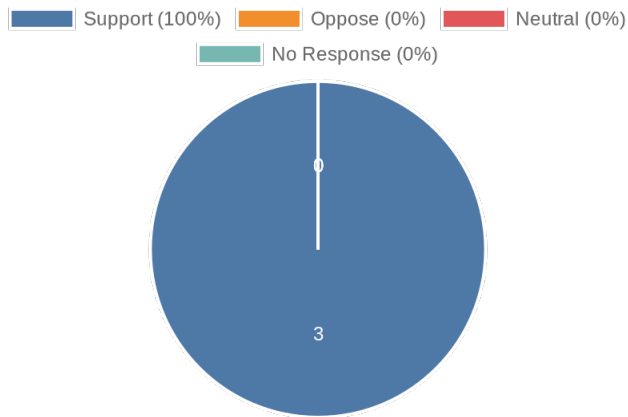
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-10-29 9:00 AM
10-29-24 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
BFED-110 Bill 147 (2024) BILL 147 (2024), RELATING TO AUGUST 2023 MAUI WILDFIRES REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF (BFED-110)	2	2	0	0
BFED-111 Bill 153 (2024) BILL 153 (2024), RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS ON PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES (BFED-111)	1	1	0	0

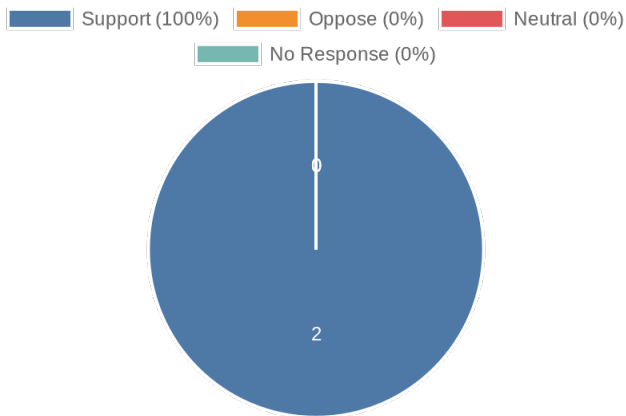
Sentiments for All Agenda Items

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

Overall Sentiment



Overall Sentiment



Desilee Santiago

Location:

Submitted At: 10:01am 10-29-24

I am in support of Bill 147, but have a few concerns regarding the price of the rentals that these land owners are charging who are taking advantage of these exemptions. If the owners/landlords are receiving a substantial tax break for their rental units, then how are the tenants benefitting from this? Most rentals average \$4000-\$8000 per month, exceeding most tenants' incomes, as well as creating an even greater hardship for those that do not qualify for any rental assistance (in and out of the burn zone). I'm concerned that the exemptions are supposed to help the land owners, but would like to think that the savings are then passed on to the tenants. This is not happening to the mass majority of tenants.

Also, Section 5. Ch 3.48.551 Section B reads: "...to lease for a term of at least an individual who was directly displaced by the August 2023 Maui wildfires, without evicting a prior long-term tenant...". This condition has not been enforced effectively as we know of many tenants that were wrongfully evicted under duress and had nowhere else to go. How is the County enforcing this condition? And who do they need to contact to ensure that this exemption cannot be used by those who are violating it?

Mahalo.

Jonathan Helton

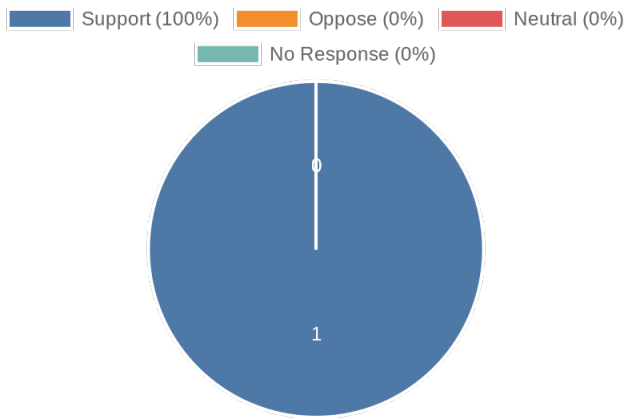
Location:

Submitted At: 11:03am 10-28-24

Please see attached

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-111 Bill 153 (2024) BILL 153 (2024), RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS ON PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES (BFED-111)

Overall Sentiment



Jonathan Helton

Location:

Submitted At: 10:40am 10-28-24

Please see attached

Oct. 29, 2024, 9 a.m.

Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building

To: Maui County Council Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair

Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair

From: Jonathan Helton, Policy Researcher

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RE: BILL 153 — RELATING TO EXEMPTIONS ON PROPERTIES IMPACTED BY THE AUGUST 2023 WILDFIRES

Aloha Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama and other members of the Committee,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** [Bill 153 \(2024\)](#), which would allow owners who had real property tax exemptions on properties that were destroyed in the wildfires to continue receiving those exemptions through December 1, 2026.

Right now, all properties that had exemptions — such as a home or nonprofit exemption — for tax year 2024 prior to the August 2023 wildfires will see those exemptions expire on Dec. 1, 2024.

Extending this deadline recognizes that the cleanup and rebuilding processes have been unpredictable and slow. Lahaina property owners should not face the risk of paying property taxes on land or buildings that they cannot legally rebuild or inhabit.

We thank the Committee and Mayor Richard Bissen for introducing this legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Jonathan Helton

Policy Researcher

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii