

From: James Tavares <tavaresjam@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 21, 2021 8:56 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Support For CR 21-95

2021 OCT 22 AM 8:04

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COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from tavaresjam@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

My name is James William Tavares, a resident of Maui and residing at 579 Hana Highway in Kuau.

I am writing to support passage of the "Aina Kupuna" bill with proposed additions.

My family has owned land here in beautiful Kuau for over a hundred years. My grandfather Antone Tavares purchased oceanfront property and raised his family of 12 children there. We have been blessed that my father Bill Tavares whom some of you may remember as the founder of COMET (Committee For More Equitable Taxation), gave each of his 5 children a piece of Maui so that he and my mom could live out their golden years enjoying their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren living close by. Dad passed away 2 1/2 years ago and would have been 100 years old next month. I know if he were alive, he would be there at the meeting urging each of you for your support of this bill. He was thankful for the "Circuit Breaker" bill the Council passed years ago because it helped many people who used to call him, some crying on the phone begging him and his committee for help.

We have seen property values in Kuau skyrocketing over the years and recently saw a property 2 doors down from mine advertised for \$6 million and then finally sold for \$8 million. I'm pretty sure I would expect my property taxes to increase dramatically in the next year or two. We have put the property into a trust for my children and was considering setting up a special account to help them pay the taxes and other expenses hoping that would help them to hang on to it for their children to enjoy. Hopefully that won't be necessary with your passage of CR 21-95.

Thank you councilmember Rawlins and the rest of your committee, for your efforts in drafting this bill. Also thank you councilmembers Lee and Molina for your past support of my dad Bill Tavares and COMET. I know he will be smiling on all of us when this bill passes. Please vote Aye.

James Tavares

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James W. Tavares
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Kahului, Hawaii 96733
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(808)264-1619

From: Julia Estigoy-Kaho'onei <jestigoyk@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:16 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: SUPPORT of CR 21-95

2021 OCT 22 AM 8:04

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You don't often get email from jestigoyk@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

This is my written testimony in support of CR 21-95 concerning the 'Aina Kupuna tax relief.

In brief I believe that government needs to keep the land and the native peoples of Hawaii as their top priority all legislative measures. There has been much damage caused by the historical trauma here in Hawai'i and it's an uphill battle to undo much of that damage but it should never be set aside for profit or for benefit of foreigners. All of Hawaii needs to be preserved and protected as the unique culture that it is, but more so on the islands that been culturally decimated by the influx and greed of American wealth such as Maui.

All talking points listed below needs to be heard and supported if government wants to see Hawaii thrive

1. Native Hawaiian and kama'āina families who have been able to maintain their ancestral lands for generations represent a foundation of Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and help to maintain important connections to the past and to the 'āina that have informed, and continue to inform, Maui's social fabric and unique community values. This bill will help more of these families hold on to their 'ohana lands, especially amidst global real estate speculation, skyrocketing property values, and resulting property tax assessments that may exceed what many can afford. **Accordingly, this measure will help to perpetuate Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and preserve that which has helped to make Maui and all of Hawai'i such a unique and special place to live.**
2. Land grabs and speculation by off-island investors should never lead to long-time kama'āina families being taxed into poverty, or off of their ancestral lands. **This bill will protect Maui's families and the legacy they represent, from property tax increases due to forces well beyond their control.**
3. The dispossession of land has deep, profound, and unique impacts on Native Hawaiians, whose health and well-being are based on their feelings for and deep attachment to the 'āina. Other kama'āina who have maintained their family lands since the Great Depression are likely to have also developed a deep, familial attachment to their lands that would be devastating to lose. **This bill will provide critical protection for Native Hawaiian and other 'ohana who may be forced to choose between the devastation of selling their ancestral lands, or paying tax assessments that they are increasingly unable to afford.**
4. The county government has benefited greatly from skyrocketing property values and associated property taxes, driven by real estate speculation, foreign investment, and the global demand for land in Hawai'i. Sadly, this surge in property values is now pushing Maui's long-time 'ohana to the brink of losing their ancestral lands, going into poverty to pay their property taxes, or monetizing their 'āina in ways that erode their character, and the overall character of Maui's unique communities. **As its coffers continue to fill from the foreign desire for Maui's lands, the county must take steps to provide targeted tax relief for its long-time 'ohana, and the last living vestiges of Maui's social and cultural heritage that they embody.**

Julia *Kamaile* Estigoy-Kaho'onei
JEstigoyK@outlook.com

County Clerk

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From: Sharde Freitas <skmfreitas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:37 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Support for CR21-95

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You don't often get email from skmfreitas@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha,

I submit this testimony in **SUPPORT** of CR21-95.

Native Hawaiian and kama'āina families who have been able to maintain their ancestral lands for generations represent a foundation of Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and help to maintain important connections to the past and to the 'āina that have informed, and continue to inform, Maui's social fabric and unique community values. This bill will help more of these families hold on to their 'ohana lands, especially amidst global real estate speculation, skyrocketing property values, and resulting property tax assessments that may exceed what many can afford. Accordingly, this measure will help to perpetuate Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and preserve that which has helped to make Maui and all of Hawai'i such a unique and special place to live.

Land grabs and speculation by off-island investors should never lead to long-time kama'āina families being taxed into poverty, or off of their ancestral lands. This bill will protect Maui's families and the legacy they represent, from property tax increases due to forces well beyond their control.

The dispossession of land has deep, profound, and unique impacts on Native Hawaiians, whose health and well-being are based on their feelings for and deep attachment to the 'āina. Other kama'āina who have maintained their family lands since the Great Depression are likely to have also developed a deep, familial attachment to their lands that would be devastating to lose. This bill will provide critical protection for Native Hawaiian and other 'ohana who may be forced to choose between the devastation of selling their ancestral lands, or paying tax assessments that they are increasingly unable to afford.

The county government has benefited greatly from skyrocketing property values and associated property taxes, driven by real estate speculation, foreign investment, and the global demand for land in Hawai'i. Sadly, this surge in property values is now pushing Maui's long-time 'ohana to the brink of losing their ancestral lands, going into poverty to pay their property taxes, or monetizing their 'āina in ways that erode their character, and the overall character of Maui's unique communities. As its coffers continue to fill from the foreign desire for Maui's lands, the county must take steps to provide targeted tax relief for its long-time 'ohana, and the last living vestiges of Maui's social and cultural heritage that they embody.

Mahalo,

Sharde Freitas, Esq., MPH

County Clerk

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From: Aloha Aina Legal Group <alohaainalegal@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:41 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Support for CR21-95

2021 OCT 22 AM 8:04

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You don't often get email from alohaainalegal@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha,

Aloha 'Āina Legal Group, LLLC submits this testimony in **SUPPORT** of CR21-95.

Native Hawaiian and kama'āina families who have been able to maintain their ancestral lands for generations represent a foundation of Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and help to maintain important connections to the past and to the 'āina that have informed, and continue to inform, Maui's social fabric and unique community values. This bill will help more of these families hold on to their 'ohana lands, especially amidst global real estate speculation, skyrocketing property values, and resulting property tax assessments that may exceed what many can afford. Accordingly, this measure will help to perpetuate Maui's historical and cultural legacy, and preserve that which has helped to make Maui and all of Hawai'i such a unique and special place to live.

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The county government has benefited greatly from skyrocketing property values and associated property taxes, driven by real estate speculation, foreign investment, and the global demand for land in Hawai'i. Sadly, this surge in property values is now pushing Maui's long-time 'ohana to the brink of losing their ancestral lands, going into poverty to pay their property taxes, or monetizing their 'āina in ways that erode their character, and the overall character of Maui's unique communities. As its coffers continue to fill from the foreign desire for Maui's lands, the county must take steps to provide targeted tax relief for its long-time 'ohana, and the last living vestiges of Maui's social and cultural heritage that they embody.

Mahalo,

Aloha 'Āina Legal Group, LLLC
(808) 594-8274

From: Cody Pata <pupata75@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, October 22, 2021 7:45 AM
To: County Clerk
Cc: Keani N. Rawlins
Subject: Testimony in support of CC 21-484

2021 OCT 22 AM 8:04

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Aloha mai, e Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez & County Council Members~
My name is Cody Pueo Pata, and I am the Kumu Hula of Ka Malama Mahilani here on Maui. I am also a Hawaiian culture and language teacher and consultant.

I write to ask that the Council passes: CC 21-484 "SUPPORTING THE HUAMAKAHIKINA DECLARATION AND THE EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE THE PRACTICE OF HULA, AND TO PREVENT ITS CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND APPROPRIATION."

200 members of the Huamakahikina Coalition of Kumu Hula have unanimously voted for ratification of the "Huamakahikina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula", thus testifying that the Declaration accurately expresses their thoughts and will regarding the integrity, stewardship, and Protection of Hula.

Beginning in late October 2020, the Kumu Hula of the Huamakahikina coalition of Kumu Hula from across Hawai'i and around the world began to work on a formal declaration regarding Hula. We recognized that there was not a single entity—government, social, private, or otherwise—that could speak on behalf of Kumu Hula & Hula better than Kumu Hula, themselves. As such, the processes for the declaration building began.

Between October 2020 to June 2021, the input of around 60 Kumu Hula was reflected in the verbiage of the declaration draft. By late July 2021, the draft was then handed over to a specially-chosen Strategy Support Team, which consisted of 1 Kumu Hula representative, 1 Strategist, and 6 lawyers (with specialties in Hawaiian Law, Intellectual Property, and Policy Making), with the task of refinement and polish.

On August 21-22, 2021, around 160 Kumu Hula from around the world convened at the historic gathering, Kupukalālā Kumu Hula Convention, which was largely funded by the County of Maui, and broadcasted virtually from UHMC. The main purpose of this convention was to modify and ratify what would become the "Huamakahikina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula."

To accomplish this, every paragraph was raised in plenary for democratic vote by Huamakahikina Kumu Hula members. The choices were (translated into English): Yes, No, abstain. Although every single paragraph was overwhelmingly passed, registrants who voted "no" or "abstain" were asked to log their reasons into the open chat. These mana'o were then gathered by the hefty team of specially trained staff, and were used in the next steps.

After the initial plenary vote took place, all of the Kumu Hula registrants were split into 12-14 breakout sessions led by one specially trained moderator, and equipped with one specially trained note-taker. The Kumu Hula were then given time to debate the mana‘o garnered from the plenary session, and submit possible solutions. Reactions and comments were meticulously logged.

Altogether, there were 3 refinement processes which engaged the Kumu Hula registrants. On the last day of the Kupukalālā Kumu Hula Convention, the Declaration was given a final reading, and was unanimously ratified by all Kumu Hula registrants. The ratification process continued for 10 more days as members of the Leo Kāhoa Steering Committee of Huamakahikina contacted elderly Kumu Hula and those who are not tech-savvy for their mana‘o.

Ultimately every Kumu Hula involved in the creation of the "Huamakahikina Declaration on the Integrity, Stewardship, and Protection of Hula" *unanimously* voted for ratification, thus testifying that the Declaration accurately expresses their thoughts and will. As such, I humbly ask that the Maui County Council **Council passes: CC 21-**

484 "SUPPORTING THE HUAMAKAHIKINA DECLARATION AND THE EFFORTS TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE THE PRACTICE OF HULA, AND TO PREVENT ITS CONTINUED ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION AND APPROPRIATION."

Me ka ‘oia‘i‘o a me ka ha‘aha‘a,
Kumu Hula Cody Pueo Pata
808 281-0714