



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

RECEIVED

2021 MAY 13 PM 5:23

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**Testimony on Real Property Tax Rates  
For Fiscal Year 2022  
Friday, May 14, 2021**

Dear Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and  
Members of the Maui County Council,

We strongly support the Council's decision to leave several of the classifications like Commercial, Industrial, Agricultural, Apartment, Conservation and Commercialized Residential the same. For businesses who have faced extreme losses over the last year and are trying to bring back their employees, this is beneficial to them.

We also appreciate that you looked at ways to further support affordable housing and rentals from the Non Owner Occupied classification with higher rates at the highest tier. Mahalo to Member Paltin for letting us know that it is possible for the rate tiers to be different for each classification. Given this, we stand by our previous testimony to increase the lowest tier for Owner-Occupied to \$1,000,000. We believe that gives better flexibility for protecting full-time residents. Additionally, we also feel a tax credit for verified full-time residents with proof of residency would be another great tool to help differentiate between the categories.

Lastly, we are concerned by the extreme increase in the Hotel/Resort classification. Other than the highest tier for Non Owner Occupied, this was the largest increase. Hotels and resorts were some of the hardest hit businesses in 2020 and many were just starting to see the beginnings of recovery over the last 3 months. The visitor industry has been targeted in several areas such as, eliminating the Maui Visitors Bureau budget, the visitor accommodations moratorium and bills to decrease HTA's budget and capacity at the state level. However, we now know more than ever that we need the visitor industry to shore up our economy. We ask that you reconsider and lower the rate for the Hotel/Resort classification.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on the proposed real property tax rates.

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.