

BFED Committee

From: Keleko <keleko@maolilani.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 10:38 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: BFED 35 - support for residents and LTR
Attachments: BFED Meeting 111623.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Aloha,

Please say no to TVR's and only provide tax relief to residents or priorities willing to rent long term, affordable rent to displaced Lahaina residents. We understand Puamana is attempting to mobilize their large foreign investor TVR owners to try and seek the same tax relief. While also attempting to keep locals out. This is appalling. Please only allow residents and LTR any tax relief.

Say yes to residents and properties willing to rent affordable and long term

Say no to investment property that really does not need any tax break at all. TVR's should not be included. Puamana is worried owner may have to sell to residents. Puamana appears to be opposed to residents. We hear the same for Lahaina Shores. Either way, please exclude TVR and include Long Term Rentals in the tax exemptions. Shame on Puamana, shame.

See attached note Puamana sent out to try and get lots of testifiers and sway the vote. Do not let them get a way with it.

Keleko

The agenda for the next Budget Finance and Economic Development (BFED) meeting has been posted for **Thursday, November 16 at 1:30 pm HST**: <https://mauicounty.legistar.com/View.ashx?M=A&ID=1133856&GUID=4C15BDB0-7AA5-4AAC-B618-C5C4EDDDBD02>

This agenda includes 5 different items, but most relevant to our concerns is **BFED-35** and this item continues to include Bill 95 that previously create a full exemption from real property tax for ALL properties in Lahaina tax zone 4 sections five and six.

UNFORTUNATELY, the Council member who proposed Bill 95 has submitted several proposed amendments to this bill. Most concerning is an amendment that would only provide the additional tax relief to Owner Occupied properties and not to non owner occupied or TVR properties within the burn zone.

The proposed amendments also include an amendment to allow owner occupied properties outside Lahaina tax zone 4 sections five and six to also get a tax exemption if the property was made uninhabitable and proof can be by photograph or insurance claim. And it also includes a section to allow Homeowner tax exemptions in place prior to the fires to remain in effect until at least **June 30, 2025**, while the property may be uninhabitable even though the exemption might require the owner to live in the property.

Both written and oral testimony should be encouraged to support expanding tax relief to all properties in the burn zone. Council members need to feel empathy for the property owners with undamaged properties who have not been able to use their properties for the past 3 months and most likely will not be able to use the for the next year or two.

Don't yell at the Council members, instead try to appeal to their own sense of fairness. But understand that many of the Council members are not empathetic to ANY second home or TVR owners, as they feel that these uses take away housing opportunities for residents. The Council members will respond to masses of people calling for them to take a particular action, but will ignore just a few, who seem unsatisfied or angry. It takes 50-100 testimonies to actually get their attention. So, wives and husbands should each send in or speak their own testimonies. Try not to repeat the exact same thing that others have said, but try to personalize your own testimony and how the payment of these property taxes impacts you personally. DO NOT say that you may not be able to afford to keep your Maui home at these high taxes, without being able to use or rent your property. They actually want you to sell, in hopes that a local person would buy your second home to live in full time.

It is noteworthy that BFED-35 also includes two other tax relief bills, BILL 91 and Bill 102. Neither of these bills would provide tax relief to property owners whose properties were not damaged or destroyed and both depend on someone to declare the property as uninhabitable. And the Real Property tax department has submitted some code amendments that also do not help anyone whose home was not destroyed by the fires.

The most significant news from the past week were comments made by the Director of Water supply who said that it will be two to three years before safe drinking water will be available in Lahaina. <https://www.civilbeat.org/.../it-will-be-years-before.../>

This supports the argument that property taxes for ALL properties in the burn zone need to be suspended for at least 2 years.

Written testimony can continue to be submitted via the ecomments link:

<https://mauicounty.granicusideas.com/.../654d8bea7d79654c...>

Note that all the bills previous comments and proposed amendments can be accessed thru the ecomments link above.

Written testimony can also be sent directly to the Council member's email

COUNCILMEMBER EMAIL ADDRESSES:

- Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us , Council Chair
- Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us , Vice-Chair
- Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us , Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
- Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us , Councilmember
- Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us , Councilmember
- Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us , Councilmember
- Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us , Councilmember
- Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us , Councilmember
- Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us , Councilmember

BFED Committee

From: Sue Savage <ssavage1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:27 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Regarding Bill 95 included in BFED-35
Attachments: Maui Property Tax Bill 95.pdf

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Aloha BFED Committee Members,

I wish to submit the attached written testimony regarding Bill 95 included in BFED-35 to be officially accepted into the committee's record. I thank you in advance for considering Bill 95, so as to include all homeowner's properties in Lahaina Tax Zone 4, Section 5 and 6 for the property tax exemption.

Mahalo,
Sue Sakashita

November 15, 2023

Aloha Honorable Council Members,

My husband and I are owners of a home in Lahaina (Tax Map Key: 4-6-033-002-0000) that was not completely destroyed in the devastating August wildfire. It was our retirement dream to live full time in Lahaina. We fell in love with the community and the beautiful area the first time we visited, 45 years ago. We saved our money so that one day we could live on the beautiful island of Maui. We were able to purchase our home in 2018. Before the fire, we were renting for part of the year until our grandchildren, who live in California, went off to college. Then we planned to move full time to our home in Lahaina. I was already investigating ways that I could volunteer in Lahaina to give back and support the community. For example, I wanted to volunteer at Maui Friends of the Library and King Kamehameha III Elementary School since I am a retired elementary teacher. We were so excited to become a part of the Maui community.

When I first heard about Bill 95's exemption from property taxes for property owners in Lahaina Tax Zone 4, Sections 5 and 6, I was so thankful for some relief from the devastation. Now, I am extremely disappointed to see revisions to Bill 95 being proposed that nullify tax exemptions for owners of surviving homes, such as ours, that are classified as not owner-occupied.

We are not able to occupy our home because there is not water or sewer service and the estimates of receiving these services is from months to years. Please understand that the impact on those of us whose homes survived is substantial, not just financially, but the emotional loss of the wonderful community. We know many people are suffering and in need of government support. We hope you can also understand our situation and need of support too.

Our property taxes are substantial in particular because our home was not a full-time residence. Our home will probably not be viable for living, given its condition and location, for years. As a result, the property value of our home has been drastically decreased.

I respectfully urge you to extend the property tax exemption in Bill 95 (included in Bill BFED-35) for all homes in Lahaina Tax Zone 4, Sections 5 and 6.

Sincerely,



Sue Sakashita

BFED Committee

From: Bruce Sakashita <brucesak@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 15, 2023 11:40 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Bill 95 / BEFD-35
Attachments: Maui Property Taxes.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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You don't often get email from brucesak@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha BFED Committee Members,

Attached is my written testimony regarding Bill 95 (included in BFED-35) to be officially accepted into the Committee's record. I thank you in advance for considering Bill 95, so as to include all properties in Lahaina Tax Zone 4, Section 5 and 6 for the property tax exemption. Thank you.

Mahalo,

Bruce Sakashita

November 15, 2023

Maui County Council Members

Subject: 272 Pualei Drive #6, Lahaina, HI 96761 – Tax Map Key: 4-6-033-002-0000

Aloha Honorable Council Members,

We own the subject property located in Lahaina Tax Zone 4, Section 6. As a result of the recent devastating fire, 92 of 230 homes in our community were destroyed. Our building, comprised of six units, is intact. However, due to the proximity of the fire, the interior of our home suffered considerable damage from intrusion of smoke, soot and ash. Remediation of this damage will require substantial cleanup, removal of toxic substances, and repairs that will cost thousands of dollars and take years to complete.

Although our home now has access to electricity, we do not know when water and sewer services will be restored. Recent news reports indicate that potable water may not be available for up to three years. More importantly, our entire community is a toxic, hazardous and unsafe environment. Our home may not be inhabitable for years, due to environmental cleanup, rebuilding activities, and utility accessibility.

As a result of the above, we believe that our property should be exempt from property taxes until it becomes livable. We fully supported the original Bill 95 since it applied to all properties in Tax Zone 4, Section 6. We oppose Bill BFED-35, in its present form, since the amended Bill 95 excludes properties that are not owner-occupied. If the Bill is amended to apply to all properties in the affected area (including properties that are not owner-occupied), then we would fully support the Bill. This will provide the financial relief we need to begin the long, costly, and emotional recovery process.

Mahalo for your consideration and approval of Bill BFED-35, with inclusion of all properties, as set forth above.

Sincerely,



Bruce Sakashita