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DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE COUNTY OF MAUI 200 SOUTH HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793

August 28, 2019

Honorable Michael P. Victorino Mayor, County of Maui 200 South High Street Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Kelly T. King Council Chair 200 South High Street Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair King:

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Michael PV

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 19-392

## SUBJECT: A PROPOSED BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3.48, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAX

Transmitted herewith is a proposed bill entitled, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3.48, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAX".

The purposes of this proposed bill are to repeal Maui County Code, 3.48.305C relating to the classification of condominium and to insert a language for long-term residential dedication. This proposed bill would implement a uniform classification structure for real property tax purposes, in recognition of the potential burden this could create on long term residential rentals, the bill also proposes a long term residential dedication process for condominium unit or planned development owners that would allow dedicated units to be classified as "Apartment".

I respectfully request that this proposed bill be considered by the Economic Development and Budget Committee as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at extension 7474. Honorable Kelly T. King, Chair 8/28/2019 Page 2

Sincerely,

art SCOTT K. TERUYA Director of Finance

SKT:dah

Attachment

cc: Sandy Baz, Managing Director

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_ (2019)

## A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 3.48, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAX

## BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. Section 3.48.305, Maui County Code, is amended to read as

follows:

**"3.48.305 Classification of land and building.** A. Except as otherwise provided in subsection [3.48.305(B),]<u>B</u>, land and building shall be classified, upon consideration of the real property's highest and best use, into the following general classes:

- 1. Residential.
- 2. Apartment.
- 3. Hotel and resort.
- 4. Time share.
- 5. Commercial.
- 6. Industrial.
- 7. Agricultural.
- 8. Conservation.
- 9. Homeowner.
- 10. Commercialized residential.
- 11. Short-term rental.

B. In assigning land to one of the general classes, the director shall give major consideration to the districting established by the land use commission pursuant to chapter 205, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the districting established by the County in its general plan and zoning ordinance, use classifications established in the general plan of the State, and such other factors that influence highest and best use, except that:

1. A parcel that is used exclusively as the owner's principal residence and has been granted a home exemption in accordance with sections 3.48.410 and 3.48.475, shall be classified as "homeowner" without regard to its highest and best use.

2. A parcel that serves as the owner's primary residence and has been granted a bed and breakfast permit, a transient vacation rental permit, or a conditional permit allowing a transient vacation rental use pursuant to title 19 of this code, shall be classified "commercialized residential" without regard to its highest and best use.

3. A parcel that is subject to a time share plan as defined in section 514E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended, shall be classified as "time share."

4. Unless classified as "time share," "hotel and resort," or "commercialized residential," lodging or dwelling units, as defined in title 19 of this code, occupied by transient tenants for periods of less than six consecutive months shall be classified as "short-term rental" including a parcel that does not serve as the owner's primary residence and has been granted a short-term rental home permit, a transient vacation rental permit, or a conditional permit allowing transient vacation rental use pursuant to title 19 of this code shall be classified as "short-term rental" without regard to its highest and best use.

A unit and its appertaining common interest that **I**5. are part of a planned development where transient vacation rentals are permitted, in accordance with chapter 19.32 of this code, shall be classified in accordance with subsection 3.48.305(C)(2)(a). The planned development shall form an entity that shall annually report to the director on a form prescribed by the director, the actual use of each unit in the planned development along with any information deemed relevant by the director to determine the actual use of each unit. If the required annual report is not filed on or before December 1, the director may classify all units in the planned development in accordance with subsection 3.48.305(A) for the following assessment year. The entity shall report any change in actual use of a unit in the planned development within thirty days of that change. The director may investigate any unit and, if it is determined by the director that the actual use differs from the use reported, reclassify and reassess the unit.]

[6.]5. Unless classified as "time share" or "commercialized residential," properties occupied by transient tenants for periods of less than six consecutive months, have eight or more lodging or dwelling units as defined in title 19 of this code, and employ more than twenty full-time persons, shall be classified as "hotel and resort."

[C. When property is subdivided into condominium units, each condominium association or any entity filing a condominium property regime, shall file an annual report with the director of all units in the association, by tax map key number, before December 1 of each calendar year.

1. The director shall prescribe the form of the list and any supporting evidence as necessary. The list shall include

whether the unit is vacant, owner occupied, or rented long term or short term, by month.

2. Each unit and its appertaining common interest shall be:

a. Classified upon consideration of its actual use into one of the general classes as follows:

i. Homeowner. Only those units owned and occupied as a principal home and for which a home exemption claim was filed and granted shall be classified as "homeowner."

ii. Apartment. Only those units occupied by the owner for personal use or by a lessee for a term of six consecutive months or more shall be classified as "apartment."

iii. Commercial. Only those units occupied by the owner or a lessee for business or mercantile activities shall be classified as "commercial."

iv. Hotel and resort. Unless classified as "time share," or "commercialized residential," properties that are occupied by transient tenants for periods of less than six consecutive months, have eight or more lodging or dwelling units as defined in title 19 of this code, and employ more than twenty full-time persons, shall be classified as "hotel and resort."

v. Time share. Units occupied by transient tenants for periods of less than six consecutive months that are subject to a time share plan as defined in section 514E-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended, shall be classified as "time share."

vi. Commercialized residential. Units that serve as the owner's primary residence and that have been granted a bed and breakfast permit, a transient vacation rental permit, or a conditional permit allowing transient vacation rental use pursuant to title 19 of this code, shall be classified as "commercialized residential."

vii. Short-term rental. Unless classified as "time share," "hotel and resort," or "commercialized residential," lodging or dwelling units, as defined in title 19 of this code, occupied by transient tenants for periods of less than six consecutive months shall be classified as "shortterm rental," including properties granted a shortterm rental home permit, transient vacation rental permit, or conditional permit allowing transient vacation rental use.

b. Deemed a parcel and assessed separately from other units.

3. The director may, after investigation, reclassify and reassess any unit in a condominium association found to be in violation of the owner's certification of actual use.

4. A condominium owner, the condominium association or any entity filing a condominium property regime, or both, shall notify the director of any change in a unit's classification within thirty days of that change.

5. If the required annual report is not filed on or before December 1, the director may classify all units in the project in accordance with subsection B for the following assessment year.]

[D.]C. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a parcel that does not serve as the owner's primary residence and was, prior to May 23, 2012, granted a conditional permit for bed and breakfast or transient vacation rental use pursuant to title 19 of this code, and was classified as "commercialized residential" prior to May 23, 2012, shall retain such "commercialized residential" classification."

SECTION 2. Chapter 3.48, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a

new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"<u>3.48.367</u> Condominium units or planned developments dedicated for long-term residential use. A. "Owner" as used in this section, means a person who is the fee simple owner of the real property, or who is the lessee of real property whose lease term extends ten years or more from the date of the petition.

<u>"Long-term residential use" means use or occupancy of a</u> <u>dwelling or dwelling unit, as defined in title 19 of this code, by a</u> <u>lessee for one hundred eighty consecutive days or more per year.</u>

<u>"Planned development" as used in this section, means a group of units and their appertaining common interests that are part of a planned development where transient vacation rentals are permitted, in accordance with chapter 19.32 of this code.</u>

<u>B.</u> A special land reserve is established to enable the owner of a condominium unit or a unit in a planned development to dedicate the unit to long-term residential use and have the unit be classified as "apartment." Occupation of the unit by a lessee shall be evidenced by a lease properly recorded with the bureau of conveyances or the land court of the State.

<u>C.</u> If any owner desires to have their unit classified as "apartment," the owner shall petition the director of finance and

declare in the petition that if the petition is approved, the owner shall use the unit for long-term residential use.

D. Upon receipt of any such petition, the director of finance shall make a finding of fact as to whether the unit described in the petition is being used by the owner for long-term residential use. If the finding is favorable to the owner, the director of finance shall approve the petition and declare the unit to be dedicated for longterm residential use.

<u>E.</u> The approval of the petition by the director of finance to dedicate a property for long-term residential use shall constitute a forfeiture on the part of the owner of any right to change the use of the unit for a period of ten years, automatically renewable thereafter for additional periods of ten years, subject to cancellation by either the owner or the director of finance.

F. Failure of the owner to observe the restrictions on the long-term residential use of the unit shall cancel the special tax assessment privilege retroactive to the date of the dedication, or the most recent ten-year renewal period; and all differences in the amount of taxes that were paid and those that would have been due from assessment in the higher use shall be payable with a ten percent penalty from the respective dates that these payments would have been due. Failure to observe the long-term residential use restrictions on the unit shall include, but not be limited to, advertising the unit for occupancy by transient tenants for less than one hundred eighty consecutive days during the long-term residential dedication period. Nothing in this subsection shall preclude the County from pursuing any other remedy to enforce the covenant on the use of the land.

<u>G.</u> The additional taxes and penalties, due and owing as a result of failure to observe the long-term residential use restrictions on the unit or any other breach of the terms of dedication, shall be a paramount lien upon the property as provided for by ordinance.

<u>H.</u> The director of finance shall prescribe the form of the petition. The petition shall be filed with the director of finance by September first of any calendar year and shall be approved or disapproved by December fifteenth. If approved, the assessment based upon the use requested in the dedication shall be effective on January first of the next calendar year. For the tax year beginning January 1, 2020, the petition shall be filed with the director of finance by December 31, 2019.

I. The owner may appeal any disapproved petition as in the case of an appeal from an assessment.

SECTION 3. Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this bill, the County Clerk need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.

SECTION 4. This ordinance shall take effect for the tax year beginning January 1, 2020.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

RICHELLE M. THOMSON Department of the Corporation Counsel 2017-0093/2017-1406/2019-1155 2019-08-28 Ord Amending Ch 3.48, MCC, RPT (Revised)