

EDB Committee

From: maui retreat <info@mauiretreat.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 7:42 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to address this issue.

We bought our land in 1988 and have lived “off the grid” in Huelo since then – our way of life being both sustainable and ecologically friendly. We have to maintain a one mile road to our house. We have no water and no electricity from the County. We have a farm and work the land. We encourage and educate young farmers through the FAM program, teaching them how to live in an environmentally nurturing way, and we also teach them the importance (necessity) of food security. We ‘walk our talk’, teaching ‘hands on’ in our agro-forestry garden. We obtained a B & B permit when the ordinance was created. (Maui Permit #BBPH2009/0003)

We love living on the North Shore and we feel we enrich those special kind of guests who seek out an Eco-travel experience through exemplifying green living. We also provide jobs within our community. Now, because we are permitted, we struggle to keep up with the high taxes and insurances that are already asked of us. We just had to let go our office help and cleaning people. The Covid shut-down has had disastrous and life-changing consequences for us and our business.

We have had no guests since mid March and the future is uncertain. If guests don’t return soon, we will come dangerously close to the land we have loved for so long. This is not the time for the County to increase an already high Commercialized Residential tax rate, so we humbly ask the Council to please re-consider – at least leaving it unchanged. My husband is 72 and I am 64. Our BnB and the commitment we have to this land gives us the chance to live independently. Obviously, it is our wish to stay here - and not end up in a Seniors’ Home, and not being forced to sell our land.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Warmly,
Kutira Decosterd

EDB Committee

From: Luna & Tide <lunaandtide@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:22 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Aloha All,

I'm writing to you on behalf of my property taxes.

I was successful in being awarded a B& B license in my Paia home in January.

My insurance payment required by the county for my B&B was deferred for 90 more days because of the Covid 19 shut down of B&Bs.

The county has already recognized that I can't even start since I've acquired my permit due to these unprecedented times. I am hoping that because of the circumstances that you will let me continue to pay my pre B&B taxes (and be considered an owner occupied, homeowner) .

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Please stay healthy.

Sending aloha

Christine & Tim Thevenard

EDB Committee

From: Dancing Turtle <dancingturtlemaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:31 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

For reference:

At last year's tax rates, a property assessed at \$1 million would have paid \$2320 taxes as a homeowner and would have paid \$4600 taxed as Commercialized residential.

At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

"My husband and myself run a small B&B (2 rooms, and most of the time, we only have one of them rented to never more than 2 people in the room) , This gives us the option to rent to cover some of the expenses and allows us to offer free room for my elderly parents when they need a place to stay and also to allow members of my community to stay if in need and we can offer this for free just because I can try to break even if I have the chance to rent one room to visitors 6 mo. out the year. Our setting is such that it would not even be an option for long term rentals, so the housing market is by no way negatively impacted, and we are truly not making any profit, but it allows us to cover costs and share our home when people need it; for instance we offer free housing for the "Pink paddlers" for the "Paddle for Life", we offer free accommodations to our paddling community for events and voyages, we offer free housing for participants of the Marathon and for family members for reunions, or life celebrations. We are able to offer that only because we can recover some of costs by renting a room t visitors for part of the year. We did that legally and follow all the rules and comply with all the regulations. We live here full time, we stay in our house and share the Guest space, we are not Hotel, nor are we at all a "Commercial entity" .We offer the rooms only to respectful visitors, do not allow any mass tourism, educate all our guest about our islands and the fragility of the eco system. With the increase in Tax rate which would put us at an additional \$5,000 a year into the red, and that with the GE and TA taxes, the costs for the required liability insurance and licenses fees, we simply would not be able to even "break even" and we most likely will have to close the business all together and that will also mean we will no longer able to offer free stays for our beloved community when in need"

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes.

Maxi Lohrengel-West and Woody West

EDB Committee

From: Tcroly <tcroly@maui.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:32 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Please consider Maui Resident B&B owners in RPT decisions

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee

Many Maui residents are hurting financially right now and it is imperative that the County do all it can to help them, and not make their troubles worse. To that end I am asking that you give consideration to the tax rate that you will set for the Commercialized Residential tax classification. This tax classification applies almost exclusively to Maui resident homeowners who have been granted the legal right to use a portion of their homes for visitors to stay in. We B&B permit holders are first and foremost Maui County residents who live full time in our own homes.

The 157 of us who have done all the proper things to be granted a B&B permit have willingly paid a real property tax rate that effectively has doubled our tax bills for the past ten years. We understand that this doubling of our property taxes is the price we pay to the County of Maui to allow us the legal right to use a portion of the property where we live and raise our families to welcome visitors. But we ask for some special consideration this year in the Council's setting of the real property tax rate that will apply to our homes.

The only thing that distinguishes the 157 of us from the other 26,844 Maui resident homeowners who receive a \$200,000 exemption and a much lower tax rate, is our B&B permits. But this year, since mid March, we have been forbidden from hosting visitors in our homes and this prohibition is set to last at least until June and perhaps far beyond. And even after we are again allowed to welcome guests, it is likely there will be far fewer of them for the rest of the year. Therefore, we ask the Council for some tax relief from the premium that is assessed to us over the taxation applied to other homeowners in the Owner Occupied tax classification.

The Real Property tax rate public hearing rates that were posted last week stated that the rates under consideration for Commercialized residential would be between \$3.35 and \$4.60/\$1000. While even the lowest rate posted of \$3.35/\$1000 would not put us on parity with other Maui homeowners, it is a small thing that you could do to help those of us who have lost 100% of our incomes and, from what I have found so far, are not eligible for any unemployment benefits or government loan/grant programs released so far.

Additionally, should the Council act to reduce the owner occupied real property tax rate to a rate lower than last years rate of \$2.90/\$1000, then I would ask further that you recognize that we in the Commercialized residential tax classification should have our tax rates further reduced by a similar amount. Because again, first and foremost we are Maui resident homeowners. Some of whom stand to lose our homes should this 100% loss of income last for an extended period of time.

Reducing the Commercialize residential tax rate from \$4.60 to \$3.35 would provide some help to 157 Maui Families. For me, it would mean a reduction of my tax bill from \$4300 to \$3100. While rate that would still result me paying between 65% and 150% more than I would have to pay if I did not have a B&B permit, (that I am forbidden to make use of) it would provide me some help in these times of serious financial and emotional stress.

Tom Croly

Sent from my iPad that has a mind of its own

EDB Committee

From: Buz Moffett <moffettproperties3@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 2:45 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. We also own long term rental homes that we rent out to hard working families at reasonable rates. With the housing shortage on Maui we have always felt that we supply a service to the county and the people of Maui.

With increasing costs of ownership and no end in sight to our housing problems I request that you consider a lower property tax rate for homes committed to long term housing. Perhaps a form of roll back tax similar to ag rates.

It just seems like a good way for the county to support long term rental property owners as well as helping keep the rates charged reasonable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Buz Moffett / 808-870-6794
Sent from my iPhone

EDB Committee

From: Angie Troxel <keokearanchestate@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 3:36 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Riki Hokama; Shane M. Sinenci; Tamara A. Paltin; Tasha A. Kama; Yukilei Sugimura; EDB Committee
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

For reference:

At last year's tax rates, a property assessed at \$1 million would have paid \$2320 taxes as a homeowner and would have paid \$4600 taxed as Commercialized residential.

At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

My husband and I have lived on Maui, raised our family and owned a business here since 1983. We are now retired and our sole income comes from renting out our BnB on our property. We need this income to support life here in Hawaii, the income allows us to keep our home and not have to sell it and move away from our beloved Maui. We worked hard for

many years and we have always paid our taxes. We are a legal BnB paying GET, TAT and very high property taxes. We are trying to survive with all of the insurances and taxes required to run a legal BnB and cannot endure higher taxes. These high tax rates are making it more difficult to afford to keep our home. If this increases it will not be sustainable for us. I don't think it's fair that the hotels will end up being visitors only option when there are many vacationers that do not want to stay in a hotel when they visit our island. We offer an experience that a visitor could only have by staying in a home and getting the true feeling of the island.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

EDB Committee

From: Bob Beaudry <bbeaudry@maui.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 4:01 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes, and have done so for the past 21 years.

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners and residents; we have a permit but we are unable to use it because we are currently and for the foreseeable future unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the other small businesses that depend on our operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open, and we are receiving no financial relief from the government at all.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

We send warm breezes and much aloha your way.
Mahalo, Sande Greene & Bob Beaudry, owners

Ocean Breeze Hideaway

EDB Committee

From: Todd Mimura <tmimura62860@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 4:03 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes.

RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

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At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

[My parents have purchased this property on 6 Kaimao Street, Kuau over 60 years ago. I was born and raised on this property and have no plans of leaving. This property was passed on to me from my parents and I plan on passing it down to my son who also lives on property. Due to the high cost of living we decided to make our cottage into a bed and breakfast. We got our permit in October of 2019 and due to the Coronavirus pandemic we have not gotten to rent it out a single day yet.]

Aloha,

Todd Mimura

EDB Committee

From: Claudia & Kevin Ledesma <ledesma@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 8:50 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are Claudia and Kevin Ledesma, some of you have met us or even have visited our property 12 years ago. We obtained the very first permit ever issued BBPH 2009/0001-SUP 2007/0001.

We would like to ask you to reconsider the real property tax rate that has been set for B&B owners and ask for a fair and equitable solution.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

We often have 6 month plus leases, but due to the fact that we also rent shorter periods of time, we need to maintain our Commercialized Residential status.

Currently our tenants are an elderly couple who just extended their lease from 6 months to 7 months and because we asked our upcoming summer guests to forgo their Maui visits and they agreed, we have been able to extend the lease by another 8 months to allow this couple (67 and 89 years old) to stay in place, where they can practice proper social distancing while staying healthy, still be close to their daughter and new grand daughter and not have to board an airplane.

In summary we are currently not operating as a B&B, however we hope to be able to welcome back some of our shorter term repeat guests and families in the future.

We run a commercial size nursery on our property and we grow enough fruit and vegetables for our entire neighborhood to enjoy regularly.

We are doing everything by the book, certainly employ many many Maui residents to maintain our homes and property, always have extremely respectful tenants who also support the local economy, so please keep us hard working families of Maui in your minds, when you set that rate.

Sincerely

Claudia and Kevin Ledesma

--

Claudia & Kevin Ledesma
279 Pauwela Rd.
Haiku HI 96708
808 575-9610 phone

808 575-9611 fax

808 264-4205 cell Claudia

808 283-7480 cell Kevin

<http://www.halemaukamakai.com>

<https://vimeo.com/247928087>

<https://youtube/MYCVwyle-P4>

EDB Committee

From: KulaGuys <leeinspect@juno.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 8:51 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: tax

RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

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At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

[Please add your own personal touch with your own unique story here. How has the coronavirus shut down affected you? What actions are you taking during the closure? Please talk about the positive benefits and experiences you and your family have had working in the vacation rental industry. Here are some examples to help you get started]

EXAMPLES:

"My B&B gives me the option to rent to cover expenses and keep my home and give back to my community"

"The typical visitor who stays in my home is a family with 3 kids. This is not their first trip to Hawaii and it won't be their last. They typically stay for a week or more and would not return if their only option was to stay in a resort hotel in Wailea..."

"I have lived on the North Shore for 10 years, I rent to local families coming from other islands for family functions who all want to stay in the same place and can't afford to stay in hotels..."

"My parents bought this home in Haiku over 30 years ago, it's where I grew up. After their death we inherited it and we want to preserve it for our children..."

"I have lived in Haiku for 15 years. My husband and I are retired and we need the income to support life here in Hawaii, the extra income provide allows us to keep the house and not have to move to mainland..."

"I chose to retire in Hawaii because we love it here, the people, the weather the aloha spirit, I do a lot of traveling and it seems silly to just leave my house there empty. Short term renting allows me to turn my empty house into something that can produce money for the community..."

"After our son graduated college, he was only able to find a good job in his field of training on the mainland, so he left Maui. We now rent his old bedroom as a B&B, licensed, of course, But in doing so, we lost our homestead exemption and have additionally been taxed at a much higher rate. With Hawaii's extreme dependence on visitors, it seems ill advised to continually harass and extort the very people who are providing the bulk of the State's revenue."
Aloha,

Steve Grogan (retired and full time resident since 1978)

EDB Committee

From: Yukilei Sugimura
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:17 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Miki Yokouchi
Subject: FW: Testimony to Maui County Council Regarding need for relief or forbearance plan of Real Property Tax

From Tom Fairbanks who asked me to submit to the committee regarding RPT

From: Mauibandb <mauibandb@aol.com>
Reply-To: Mauibandb <mauibandb@aol.com>
Date: Sunday, April 26, 2020 at 3:52 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Testimony to Maui County Council Regarding need for relief or forbearance plan of Real Property Tax

Aloha Councilwoman Sugimura

Please submit my plea into Testimony for me.

Thanks

Tom Fairbanks

Testimony to Maui County Council Regarding need for relief or forbearance plan of Real Property Tax

Aloha Yukie

The shutdown of our county in response to the Corona Virus has and will continue to impact our business for a minimum of another year or two. That is why I am asking the County Council to eliminate all penalties and interest for late tax payments in 2020 and 2021.

Our business began experiencing cancellations in February over fears of traveling. No doubt others did as well and distracted because of this looming threat and many refunds. Many of our population have been shutdown or laid off since mid March.

The county has a steep penalty charge of 10% if you are one hour or more late on paying your real property tax. If your in commercial or non homeowner tax category this is significant charge probably starts at \$500 penalty or more plus interest on top of it.

At this time we do not even know who can open in June and when and we have had either no business income and no income for those unemployed for six weeks already. The county needs to do its part.

I recommend eliminating penalties and interest on late payments for all property taxes due to be paid in 2020 and 2021. There is no way business or the unemployed can make up the back taxes and or the July 20 assessments in one month start up in June if that is even in the cards.

And who knows how long it will take for the airlines to get back on their feet and flying back to Maui. It took us years to build up the incredible amount of flights we had to bring visitors our only industry to our Islands. In just a few weeks we shot our foot and leg off. We are crippled and will remain that way for a while. This is not the fault of any business or worker. This was government's decision.

Our state and county government has not announced a coherent measurable path or even a vision to reopening our economy. Lack of serious Leadership plan to move us out of shutdown mode; there is just too much uncertainty for anyone to plan open and have sufficient operating funds to pay looming property tax in July. It will be a struggle going forward as well. Our problems fall at the feet of our State and County Government. Please take care of us.

Thomas Fairbanks

Owner: The Old Wailuku Inn at Ulupono

EDB Committee

From: Gail Nagasako <beachhouse808@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 9:50 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

My husband was born and raised in Lahaina and I have been a Hawaii resident for more decades than I want to admit. We've lived in our home in Waiehu for 20 years and had the "circuit breaker" for our taxes until 7 years ago when we built a cottage and got permitted as a B & B. Since then we've paid A LOT of taxes: higher property taxes, the GET and the TAT. We didn't mind because it was for a good cause and we were reasonably comfortable financially.

Now with B & Bs shut down, we have lost our income for the last two months and expect that to continue into the foreseeable future. We don't get unemployment and we have a mortgage, insurance, food, etc to pay for.

It is only fair that our taxes be put in alignment with our property use now. We are strictly residential and the "circuit breaker" tax rate should apply to us retroactively from March 1 until the point where we could be said to be back in business — and I don't mean when tourism starts dribbling in. Perhaps resume the commercial tax rate when our income reaches the pre-covid level. But at the very least until tourism reaches some percentage of what it was pre-covid.

Thank you for your time and work.

Aloha,
Gail & Jordan Nagasako
1360 Hiahia Street
Wailuku

EDB Committee

From: Scott's BnB <southmauibnb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 10:45 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

For reference:

At last year's tax rates, a property assessed at \$1 million would have paid \$2320 taxes as a homeowner and would have paid \$4600 taxed as Commercialized residential.

At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Besides my not so impressive social security deposit, I now have no income. I only started with the BnB on March 1, 2019. I made it work, doing my best to make it so visitors enjoyed my small 1 BR rental. I played the part of an

AMBASSADOR of Maui to our visitors. ALL my guests loved our beautiful island and may will return.

The rental income allowed me to make the bills, being a homeowner and tax payer. In January and February 2020, everything (rental insurance, taxes, etc) came due. I managed to barely get through that. Then the virus, ZERO income, no sign of let up. And now my proerty tax is going to take off? I'm trying to survive!

Bad timing.... back in January, I was counting on the continuing income and signed a contract with a local contractor to install a nice Mitsubishi two zone system in the rental, a big improvement and now a serious Bank of America bill due in two weeks. Thousands!

That said, the new a/c is awesome and we hope someday a visitor might get to appreciate it. Not that I wanted to pull yet MORE money from my dwindling HELOC, work now must be done to remove the wall a/c, associated drywall, siding and paint work.

Please reconsider the property taxes.

Scott B Hughes 808-879-2879

EDB Committee

From: Lesley Cummings <lesleymissions@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 6:44 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: TESTIMONY FOR KAEHU

Aloha,

Imagine growing up your entire life in Waiehu and never knowing about a place called KAEHU. Driving past it everyday for thirty years and hidden behind the brush toward the ocean was a special place filled with fish ponds, loi's and an entire Hawaiian community. This is my reality. I am submitting this testimony in support of funding for the non-profit Kaehu. I am a Waiehu resident, a small business owner and a community partner with this organization. It is hard to share the uniqueness of this place in an email. As with everything, it is going to the place and immersing yourself in the soil, ocean and wind to fully understand how important this place is for the Maui community.

Kaehu is a place of healing. It is a place that has allowed us to bring together all walks of life to give back to the land. It is a place where people can connect to the land, to each other and more importantly to ourselves. It needs the County to help protect it.

Mahalo,
Lesley Cummings

EDB Committee

From: Ray Masters <ray@bepositive.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:50 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. We have been here for 30 years and have been legal B&B operators since 2009.

Since we bought our home in 1999 our taxes have increased by over \$10,000 per year or 425%!

We are a retired couple who live off Social Security and our rental income. We love our home and have invested 20 years and countless amounts of time and money in making it a beautiful addition to our neighborhood.

These annual increases are directly impacting our ability to stay in our home and could force us to relocate to the mainland.

Because we have a B&B permit we are no longer being taxed as homeowners or allowed the \$200,000 tax exemption. We only rent about 15% of our home yet pay these taxes on the entire amount.

As B&B owners we are forbidden from using our home as a normal family would and yet we are also being penalized with higher taxes.

We take our responsibilities as members of the Maui Tourist Industry very seriously. We know that we are representatives of this island and State. Our guests are usually couples or families with 1 or 2 kids that would not come to Maui if they had to rent a condo or stay in a hotel.

We show them the real Maui and the history and need for respect while staying here.

We are great ambassadors of this island and State.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year of \$3.00 given the extenuating circumstances we now face.

Right now we are unable to use our permit because of the pandemic and in these unprecedented times, we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well.

We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an vital part of our community and the tourism industry. Mahalo to the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees and their efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering our testimony.

Raphael and Vivienne Masters

EDB Committee

From: Jette <jette@vcasa.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:53 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes.

EDB Committee

From: Gmail <clark.johnson6@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:54 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members

We would like you to consider suspending the tax premiums for bed-and-breakfast and STR homes retroactive to when the quarantine was imposed

We are currently unable to rent and have no prospects for the foreseeable future as everyone has canceled. We have no income coming in.

It would also help us if you would apply the premium rental tax rate only to the building portion of our property as that is the only portion that is used in this manner.
Thank you for your consideration

Clark and Sue Johnson

EDB Committee

From: Steve Slater <steve@vcasa.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 7:59 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings -

We had one of the first short term rental permit. Mayor Arakawa said that it was going to help us keep doing our exemplary nature conserving agriculture. We pretty much have a private botanical garden going in the short term rental was supposed to help us. The ridiculously high property taxes that insued because most other people doing short term vacation homes are in it for the money and we just wanted to have a little bit a supplementary income since we have nothing but catchment water and need to keep control of our property to maintain the botanical garden.

The extremely high property taxes have all that negated our Social Security payments and we are running at a loss, but with this virus it's really a loss. Since were not allowed to rent now there should be a moratorium on paying that ridiculously high hotel tax. Are all the hotels for bidden to rent? Are they getting stimulus money as hotels that were not? Our hotel is only allowed four people. This was not what we originally agreed to in the terms of short term rental. This is not fair.

Steve & Jette Slater
37 years as full time residents of Haiku www.mauichalet.com

EDB Committee

From: Tcroly <tcroly@maui.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:51 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RealProperty Tax rate comments

Aloha Council,

I know that you have worked hard over the past month to establish a budget for the upcoming fiscal year that holds so much uncertainty for so many of Maui's residents and businesses. And today you are tasked with setting appropriate Real Property tax rates to fund that budget. Here are my comments on how I believe you should set rates in each tax classification:

TIME SHARE \$14.40

NON-OWNER OCCUPIED

Tier 1 \$5.60

Tier 2 \$6.20

Tier 3 \$8.50 - this class and value level is made up primarily of luxury second homes that are not rented to residents and do not generate TAT and GET as short term rentals do

APARTMENT

\$5.55 this is a rate reduction of \$0.76 from last year's rates and is justified because this classification now only includes actual apartments that are rented to residents and not condominiumized second homes as it did last year.

COMMERCIAL

\$7.39 this is the same rate as last year and the Mayor did not establish any substantial reason to lower this rate.

INDUSTRIAL

\$7.39 this rate should be consistent with COMMERCIAL because most of the properties in this classification are shopping centers and are making the same uses as this innCOMMERCIAL.

AGRICULTURE

\$5.94 this is the same rate as last year but the change is that most all the properties in this classification this year are indeed Agricultural lands that already get a reduced assessed value because of agricultural use.

CONSERVATION

\$6.43 this classification is mostly Maui's Golf courses

HOTEL/RESORT

\$11.00 this rate should not be reduced from last year's rate and really should be much higher than Short term rental because of the density of visitors staying at these properties.

OWNER OCCUPIED

TIER 1 \$2.61

Tier 2 \$2.90

Tier 3 \$5.50 this tier of owner occupied is made up of luxury homes and should not be subsidized with the lower rate available to homeowners

SHORT TERM RENTAL

\$10.75 this rate should stay the same as last year or be lower and no different in the tiers as this high rate is already greater than would be fair because like Bed and Breakfasts, this use is currently not allowed

COMMERCIALIZED RESIDENTIAL

\$3.35 - this classification is made up of Resident Maui homeowners who have a B&B permit that they have been forbidden from using. The rate this year for this class should be the same as OWNER Occupied if that is possible, since these owners do occupancy these properties as their homes but cannot use the permit to allow them to rent the rooms in their homes to visitors.

Tom Croly

Sent from my iPad that has a mind of its own

EDB Committee

From: Mike J. Molina
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 9:57 AM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Gary Saldana
Subject: Fw: Feedback on current permit review process.
Attachments: HIOG LOGO 01-03-05.jpg

Please include attached email in EDB - 001, regarding the need for an audit of the Planning Dept.
Mike

From: Thomas Cook <cooksynergy@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 26, 2020 6:24 PM
To: Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Feedback on current permit review process.

Aloha Mike,
I know this is later for your hearing but am glad you are looking into the plan review, building permit, Flood zone, SMA permitting issue process by County of Maui. My view / opinion has been since the PPR process was implemented by Mayor Arakawa and Keith Regan some years ago. Administration oversight of the departments is needed. The departments are all in their own silos. MAPPS was / is a needed modification in how the COM various departments manage submittals, reviews, communication with Architects, Engineers, Contractors and owners.
Thank you for addressing this important matter under consideration.
If I can be of further assistance please let me know.
Tom Cook
CookSynergy
870-2205

This is from a Professional friend of mine who works daily with the departments and has reached out to the Construction Industry of Maui to bring up issues so we can all work together to improve the current system.

Tom apologies for the delay. Home schooling and working remotely are not as easy as I hoped they would be.

Here is a brief response to your questions. I hope it is not too rambling. I almost do not know where to start... Zoning department is where it should start frankly. Fix that department and you are good to go.

Planning department:

Bullet points:

- First and foremost bad attitudes and customer service in the Zoning department (current planning etc. are professional and helpful)
- Untimely review: 3 months until an application is looked at and then comments or issues addressed and now more months of waiting for re-review.
- Only finding problems and not interested in solutions.
- When asked for the specific rules in ch.19 so that we can educate ourselves we get no response. If we push back we go to the bottom of the pile and are ghosted...
- When asked why something takes so long they say they are overworked and understaffed but I understand that the staffing is at full capacity and recently fees have gone up.
- Certain individuals with bad attitudes and poor customer service have too much power and ability to interpret the rules to suit their preference and "loose projects" and or not communicate with applicants.
- Not communicating with other departments in the county as well as the building industry as to changes in rules or processes.
- Not communicating what is possible only what is not: I.E. "you can not have a Lanai that large". But how large can it be? As we drew it based on the what seemed like accurate interpretation of the rules.
- Not providing back up of rules or codes that illustrate or back up the comments on inadequacies or non- conforming items in a project.

The Zoning department changed procedures and forms with out notification to the design community. Thus after applying for a permit we are informed that we need to re-do work entirely, raising costs and delaying projects. The constantly changing interpretations and attitude of enforcement and fining are stifling projects. The zoning department is not responsive and not helpful to find solutions rather only to find problems and road blocks. Many projects languish and die in the bureaucratic maze of bureaucratic hurdles and dead ends. I.e. punitive fines for properties in the SMA area that perform construction of building permit exempt structures such as fences, and sheds or agriculture buildings yet an SMA assessment install required to be prepared by a professional submitted and wait 3-6 months to build a 50 sq ft shed or face a fine of uptimes o \$100k initially and \$10k everyday after... Punishing owners for things that where done by prior owners and which where not informed properly by their Realtor is unfortunate and counter productive. Making it harder to get permits means less people will get permits. Are permits meant to improve public heath and safety or rather to be punitive and raise money for the county?

I recently had a planner tell me that their supervisor was pushing finding property owners too fine in the SMA and Shoreline areas as a source of revenue for the department and county. On top of that the supervisor was happy about the amount of revenue that has been generated. I believe the county would generate more revenue from having a healthy relationship with its citizens and find solutions and provide concise relevant information that would produce more affordable housing thus jobs and revenue from taxes rather than fines. We in the building industry are not an adversary of the planning department we actual make more money due to how difficult the process is to navigate and how many more permits are required

Recently we submitted a flood development permit and SMA in November of last year. In February this year the planners got back to use and informed us that the form we used for the FDP was old, and as of Jan. 1st this year there is a new form. Also the new form has increased requirements in terms of the real property data that is given to the county. Instead of 7 years for the cumulative cost of improvements we would have to provide 10 years or cost. Also the information that we had provided was not current and Real Property had updated the property values recently and thus we would need to completely redo all the work previously conducted. There are several issues with this:

1. We were not informed of new forms. 2. We applied in the previous year with relevant forms and information. 3. We can only use the information that is available to us at present time not in the future. This affects us in several ways. If we need to completely redo something that takes 100% more effort we have exceeded our profit margin by 80%, now we are losing money. Considering the loss in revenue and the potential on future projects we increase our fees to remain profitable and thus increase the cost of housing.

In general the departments tasked with reviewing building permit applications do not coordinate with each other and many times contradict one another. I.E. the requirement of a sewer clean out in the SMA area to be installed before WWD signing off on permit application approval means that owners need to install one which requires an SMA assessment to be performed and approved as well as a grading permit thus increasing the amount of time cost. The individual departments do not understand the overall process of permitting only their individual departments. The county DSA and planning departments need to communicate with industry organizations such as CIM and the AIA. For example when new forms or rules are enacted a simple email to the professional organizations that can then disseminate the information broadly to members in a timely manner. Often we find out about changes after we have submitted.

As an urban planner myself I believe in urban planning and the positive influences of good design on a community I am not a full on capitalist at all cost and know that there has to be a balance between the two. The planning Department are supposed to be there to help the community not hinder or choose winners and losers.

The political points scored by advocating for more affordable housing is in direct contrast with the increased cost of the permitting process due to inefficient and vindictive bureaucracies. Time is money and the longer it takes the more it costs. Over development is a real issue that has potential to take away from our communities character and beauty. However the way for planning department to deal with this is strong urban growth boundaries that protect wild spaces and outreach and education to the community on processes and clear concise rules that are interpreted ubiquitously regardless of the individual.

I hope this helps. Please know this is the worst department in the county that we deal with period. The zoning department needs new leadership as we see when new people are hired they quickly transfer out to other departments I can not say for certain why but an assumption it is not a healthy place to work and the dynamics of the individuals that have control and leadership are stifling talented and dedicated civil servants from making improvements.

David E. Sellers
Principal
p: 808.495.8639
m: 808.554.8006
f: 808.791.2513
david@hioffgrid.com
www.hioffgrid.com



EDB Committee

From: mikeleonemaui@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 10:09 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

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We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,
Michael

Michael Leone
BBWM 2019/001
808-419-1001
mikeleonemaui@gmail.com

EDB Committee

From: AI Investors <mauinani2014@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:04 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Aloha Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

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We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Kyron (B&B Owner)

EDB Committee

From: Smith Holden <hesvv@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:47 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Do not raise propert tax

Do not raise property tax.

EDB Committee

From: Holden <holden1smith@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 11:55 AM
To: County Clerk; EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura

RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to the posted real property taxes proposed.

We are first and foremost residents who live in our own homes. Without our B&B permits, we would be taxed as homeowner. Our B&B permit is the only thing that excludes us from being taxed as homeowners and makes us give up the \$200,000 tax exemption to be classified as "Commercialized Residential."

Currently B&B permit holders are forbidden by law from hosting guests. This situation does not look like it will change anytime soon. It is only fair that we be treated as if, in Real property tax rates, we did not have a permit, and be considered owner occupied, homeowner.

The tax classifications and application of exemptions has already been established for the 2020/2021 tax year, we are asking the Council to please consider lowering the tax rate for the commercialized residential class.

The tax rate range that the council published last week for the Commercialized Residential tax class is \$3.35 to \$4.60. We respectfully ask that the rate for this classification be set for this tax year no higher than \$3.35.

For reference:

At last year's tax rates, a property assessed at \$1 million would have paid \$2320 taxes as a homeowner and would have paid \$4600 taxed as Commercialized residential.

At the ranges proposed in this year's budget that same property, while still assessed at \$1 million, would pay between \$1328 and \$2088 at the proposed homeowner tax rates and would pay between \$3350 and \$4600 at the rates presently proposed for Commercialized residential. We are asking for the \$3.35/\$1000 tax rate because that is the lowest rate that the Council may apply based on the posting for the Real property tax rates that they made last week.

We are Maui homeowners, we are Maui residents, we have a permit but we are unable to use it because the county says we are unable to rent. We know this is due to the pandemic and that these are unprecedented times, so we feel unprecedented action is required from the Council. Maui's bed and breakfast operations are suffering during the shutdown, and the small businesses that depend on these operations are facing hardship as well. We don't know when we are going to be able to open.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the Economic Development and Budget Committee Committees efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

EDB Committee

From: Mark Hyde <HYDEM001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 12:42 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Planning Department Audit

Performance audits can be useful to assess and improve operations. I support funding an audit of the Planning Department even in this time of shrinking fiscal resources because there are obvious signs of need for improvement, a few being community plan updates that are 10 years overdue; inability to implement plans on record; lack of performance indicators and routine measurement/reporting; potential technology gaps creating inefficiencies and impacting departmental performance; lack of customer support processes, procedures and software; and lack of alignment with best practices in the planning industry.

It's likely a comprehensive audit cannot be performed given budget restraints. However, an audit could focus on one or two elements, such as technology and best practices. Frankly, this initiative should be coming from the Administration. Failing that, it is up to the council to provide leadership to improve operations and efficiency.

Mark Hyde
4320 E. Waiola Loop
Kihei, Hawaii 96753
(808) 874-3839

EDB Committee

From: Tcroly <tcroly@maui.net>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 1:47 PM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Re: RealProperty Tax rate comments

I see from the current cuts the Council has made to spending (good job) that there would be approximately \$50 million excess revenues at the RPT rates that I had originally suggested, that were based on the Mayors projected budget and rates.

Therefore I would recommend reducing all the rates that I originally suggested across the board below by 15%.

Therefore the rates I would now recommend based on my calculations would be:

> NON-OWNER OCCUPIED

- > Tier 1 \$4.75
- > Tier 2 \$5.10
- > Tier 3 \$7.50

>

> APARTMENT

- > \$4.75

>

> COMMERCIAL

- > \$6.29

>

> INDUSTRIAL

- > \$6.29

>

> AGRICULTURE

- > \$5.00

>

> CONSERVATION

- > \$5.46

>

> HOTEL/RESORT

- > \$9.37

>

> OWNER OCCUPIED

- > TIER 1 \$2.25
- > Tier 2 \$2.50
- > Tier 3 \$4.75

>

> SHORT TERM RENTAL

- > \$9.15

>

- > COMMERCIALIZED RESIDENTIAL
- > \$2.85

Tom Croly

Sent from my iPad that has a mind of its own

> On Apr 27, 2020, at 9:51 AM, Tcroly <tcroly@maui.net> wrote:

>

> Aloha Council,

> I know that you have worked hard over the past month to establish a budget for the upcoming fiscal year that holds so much uncertainty for so many of Maui's residents and businesses. And today you are tasked with setting appropriate Real Property tax rates to fund that budget. Here are my comments on how I believe you should set rates in each tax classification:

>

> TIME SHARE \$14.40

>

> NON-OWNER OCCUPIED

> Tier 1 \$5.60

> Tier 2 \$6.20

> Tier 3 \$8.50 - this class and value level is made up primarily of luxury second homes that are not rented to residents and do not generate TAT and GET as short term rentals do

>

> APARTMENT

> \$5.55 this is a rate reduction of \$0.76 from last year's rates and is justified because this classification now only includes actual apartments that are rented to residents and not condominiumized second homes as it did last year.

>

> COMMERCIAL

> \$7.39 this is the same rate as last year and the Mayor did not establish any substantial reason to lower this rate.

>

> INDUSTRIAL

> \$7.39 this rate should be consistent with COMMERCIAL because most of the properties in this classification are shopping centers and are making the same uses as this commercial.

>

> AGRICULTURE

> \$5.94 this is the same rate as last year but the change is that most all the properties in this classification this year are indeed Agricultural lands that already get a reduced assessed value because of agricultural use.

>

> CONSERVATION

> \$6.43 this classification is mostly

> Maui's Golf courses

>

> HOTEL/RESORT

- > \$11.00 this rate should not be reduced from last year's rate and really should be much higher than Short term rental because of the density of visitors staying at these properties.
- >
- > OWNER OCCUPIED
- > TIER 1 \$2.61
- > Tier 2 \$2.90
- > Tier 3 \$5.50 this tier of owner occupied is made up of luxury homes and should not be subsidized with the lower rate available to homeowners
- >
- > SHORT TERM RENTAL
- > \$10.75 this rate should stay the same as last year or be lower and no different in the tiers as this high rate is already greater than would be fair because like Bed and Breakfasts, this use is currently not allowed
- >
- > COMMERCIALIZED RESIDENTIAL
- > \$3.35 - this classification is made up of Resident Maui homeowners who have a B&B permit that they have been forbidden from using. The rate this year for this class should be the same as OWNER Occupied if that is possible, since these owners do occupancy these properties as their homes but cannot use the permit to allow them to rent the rooms in their homes to visitors.
- >
- > Tom Croly
- > Sent from my iPad that has a mind of its own

EDB Committee

From: Barbara Lucas <barbara@pelesothergarden.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 3:59 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Funding for Maui Visitors Bureau

Aloha

I'm writing to express my support for the funding of the Maui Visitors Bureau (MVB).

I own a restaurant on Lanai for 24 years and have been a part of the Lanai Chamber of Commerce since its inception. Both in my day to day operations, I encounter day guests or extended visitors, and during the 5th Friday events, the MVB is very important to our Island in getting information out to the guests and supports all the small business.

The MVB is important to all the small businesses on the Island of Lanai and to cut its funding would be a disaster to our economy

Mahalo for your time.

Barbara Lucas
Owner-Pele's Other Garden

EDB Committee

From: Maui Vacation Rental Association <jenrusso@mauivacationrentalassociation.org>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 4:30 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Support for the Audit of the Maui Planning Department

Maui Vacation Rental Association SUPPORTS of an Audit of the Maui Planning Department.

Many of our Members have expressed concern regarding testifying in the Council and at the Planning Commission for fear of retribution by the Planning Department.

We represent the MVRA as a whole and It is our belief that there could be great improvements in processing permits in a timely manner, customer service, Planner responsiveness, and consistency. We support conducting an audit of the Maui Planning Department to better understand where improvements may be made.

We hear frequently from our Members that the Planning Department is arbitrary in its determinations. There have been countless stories of favoritism as the Planning Department assists and approves people with whom they have personal relationships while others receive denials.

Furthermore, the Planning Commission shares a unique relationship with the Planning Department. An audit of the Planning Commission could help determine greater efficiency and consistency there as well.

We are justifiably concerned about the Vacation Rentals and Bed and Breakfast permits not being renewed in a timely manner due to a stated desire from Planning Department leaders to phase out vacation rental permits.

Another area to audit may be the standard procedure of putting the burden of permitting proof on the property owner, even in cases where structures were built prior to recorded permits. This requirement produces arbitrary and avoidable determinations based not on fact, but rather on staff decisions no property owner can predict or plan around.

Please approve some amount of funding for an audit. It is in the best interest of our community to ensure the Planning Department and Planning Commission have every advantage to run efficiently, consistently, and transparently.

Mahalo,

Maui Vacation Rental Association

--

Best,

Jen Russo
Executive Director
Maui Vacation Rental Association
mauivacationrentalassociation.org
140 Hoohana St Suite 210
Kahului, HI 96732

EDB Committee

From: Scott Yamamoto <scionscott@hotmai.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:19 PM
To: EDB Committee; Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us; Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us; Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us; Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us; Kelly.King@mauicounty.us; Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us; Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us; Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us; Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us
Cc: tivoli.faaumu@mpd.net; dean.rickard@mpd.net
Subject: Maui Police Department Budget

Councilmembers,

I am writing this email as a concerned citizen and investor within Maui County.

I have had a followed the Maui Police Department (MPD) operating budget over the last three years and have seen consistencies in their annual operating budget request which carries over to the following fiscal year and I am asking you to further consider their budget request and also consider my thoughts in response to their budget request.

Every year MPD has vacancies in uniformed patrol that the Department will never fill and based on what I've seen over the last three years have no interest in filling. While an argument can be made that that is due to promotions and attrition, the fact is that the Department can fill their vacancies but their hiring process is subjective once the applicants pass a certain point that of many qualified and capable applicants you would be hard-pressed to get a sufficient amount of applicants hired by the Department.

I won't quote numbers but I do encourage you to research this and consider at the very least unfunding these vacancies or abolishing these positions because many of them will not be filled even though Chief Faaumu and his administration pledge every year to fill them and with the increase in efforts to recruit.

That said, the salary funding could be better used. For example, Maui County's Office of Economic Development has reported in their most recent report that the County is likely to be more adversely affected by economic downturns- and right now we are seeing one. I believe that this funding should be either put into the County's rainy day fund or used for debt service to lower the County's outstanding debt balance. But I implore you to be prudent in your allocation of funds and consider the history of this Department and their use of those funds/positions- or lack thereof- in your decision-making. The County should do its best now to position itself in a way to withstand economic shocks and set a course for long-term fiscal sustainability.

Thank you for your time,

SY.

EDB Committee

From: Kim Harter <kim@kimharter.com>
Sent: Monday, April 27, 2020 5:44 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Anne Rillero; Liz Colwell
Subject: Public testimony to MEDBC April 23, 2020
Attachments: Kim testimony given this morning by Kim Harter April 23.docx

Aloha members of the Maui Economic and Development Budget Committee,

My name is Kim Harter. I am a member of the Maui Masters Swim Club and a resident of Haiku. I gave telephone testimony on Thursday morning, April 23, in regards to fees the County is considering to charge Masters swim programs for the use of county pools during off hours.

Please see the attached word document of my public testimony given by phone on April 23.

I have included a response to comments and questions that were made during the testimony of some of our members that day, to clarify what appeared to be some misunderstandings about Masters swim programs. I hope that you will find this helpful in deciding what is appropriate to charge to use the pool facility for these purposes.

Mahalo for your time and considerations,

Sincerely,

Kim Harter

Telephone testimony given this morning by Kim Harter

April 23, 2020

To County of Maui Economic Development and Budget Committee

Voting Members:

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair

Kelly T. King, Vice-Chair

Riki Hokama

Tasha Kama

Alice L. Lee

Michael J. Molina

Tamara Paltin

Shane M. Sinenci

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Re: creating the 2021 Budget

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and council members,

My name is Kim Harter. I am calling you today as a member of the Maui Masters Swim Club and a resident of Haiku, and to ask that you support Maui's masters swim programs because they provide such an important support system to the Maui community.

I started swimming with the MMSC in 1992 as a beginning swimmer. I had recently moved to Maui and found the comradery, dedicated workouts and coaching support inspiring. Arriving tired and fatigued after a long day's work, I'd leave the pool energized and happy. I was encouraged to compete in pool competitions and saw that there are Masters swimmers around the world, going beyond our little island. I was taught how to swim in the ocean and compete in ocean races, and now do an ocean swim every Sunday with a mixed group. I have made lifelong friends, and learned the Spirit of Aloha. The club has showed me the values of sportsmanship, friendship, kindness, and care for our island community. They are some of Maui's best ambassadors, welcoming community members and visitors to join our workouts and ocean swims.

This year the county has, for the first time, begun charging aquatic programs for the use of the pools. This disrupted and restricted these valuable programs and has negatively affected a large community of people who depend on the opportunities these programs offer.

I fear that the results will weigh too heavily on a volunteer organization whose goals are to increase and encourage everyone to get in the water and learn how to swim better, harder, have fun and stay healthy. It is not easy to build up a program of diverse ages, to find and keep the right people to coach, to keep people coming to workouts and get new people to try it out

and hopefully stick with it. If the opportunities to swim are limited due to the costs being prohibitive, we will lose participants.

MMSC membership is open to the public who are 18 years and older, who can swim 50 yards or more and wish to join. The program incurs no extra cost to the County. Members pay for their own coaches and insurance which clubs must keep at an affordable and flexible rate so that more people can participate. If the rate goes up due to county fees for use of the pools, this could make it unaffordable to more of the public and incur even higher costs to remaining members.

These programs are supportive, encourage participation and demonstrate the Aloha Spirit of Maui on a world stage. We are an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Water is our friend, and an opportunity to connect us to the world.

I understand that the County Economic Development and Budget Committee sets the pool use fees. In lieu of no fee at all, please consider making a new fee category for Masters swim programs that is 50% of the current "mixed use" category, since Masters swim programs are a mix of seniors and non-seniors. At the \$13 rate, the fees for a full year for all workouts would add up to thousands of dollars. Cutting that in half would help serve more of the Maui community and make maintaining these programs more attainable. The more swimmers we have, the more we have to share the costs.

Mahalo for your consideration and support,

Sincerely,

Kim Harter

P.S. -

Dear council members,

I'd like to respond to comments and questions that were made during the testimony of some of our members today, to clarify what appears to be some misunderstandings about Masters swim programs.

Maui Masters swim programs provide a service to the community that the county is not providing. While the pools would otherwise sit empty, they are filling them with adult swimmers who are actively swimming, getting coached, learning, getting stronger and staying healthy. They are building community and providing a safe place for people of all abilities to swim hard and improve their swimming. This is what the pools were built for.

They go above and beyond offering this service to the Maui community. They have over the years volunteered to teach adults in the Maui community how to swim, through a free week

long adult learn to swim class. Many students come to class terrified to be in the water, embarrassed that they don't know how to swim, and they are able to learn to be more comfortable and often leave able to swim 50 yards.

Masters swim programs are filling a gap at no cost to the County. The County doesn't have to pay life guards, they don't have to pay insurance, they don't have to pay professional swim coaches to provide workouts and teach swim techniques, they don't have to manage a program that operated consistently 5 mornings and 4 evenings a week, so that the public can swim when the pool would otherwise be closed.

Maui Masters swim programs are not a commercial business. They serve the Maui community. They are not making money off of the county's resources. They are a community organization run by volunteers and no one in the club is getting paid. They get their insurance and guidance on how to run a local Masters program by being a member of the national US Masters Swimming (USMS) organization, an adult swim program for anyone 18 years old and over who can swim 50 yards. Each local Masters member pays an annual fee to join.

It is a lot of work to start a non-profit 501-C3 organization. There are bylaws to write, county forms to figure out and fill out, insurance to sign up for and pay, coaches to find and coordinate with, board members to sign up, and club membership to build. This requires a dedicated group of volunteers. MMSC was started in 1992. Many of our members continue to volunteer, but as we age up, we look to younger and new members to take on these leadership roles. Maintaining a diverse membership of all ages is key to our success in continuing to run this program.

MMSC keeps their swim fees as low as possible so that the program is accessible to more people. The more members they have, the lower their fees can be. If the fees are increased, they could lose membership, which means raising the fees or cutting workouts, which could mean losing more membership. It's possible that this could lead to Masters programs closing.

Swim teams, clubs and Masters programs need to use all the lanes in the pool during workouts so that swimmers of similar paces can swim together; slow, medium and fast. They need to be able to push each other by swimming side by side. It motivates them to work harder, getting a better workout and having more fun. It keeps them healthy and happy, and makes them better citizens. It motivates them to come back, to become regular swimmers. It is a beauty to behold, watching a pool full of swimmers moving through the water together at full speed. Ask any swim coach.

Maui Masters Swim Clubs are a family of caring people. We love our coaches, our swimmers, and the swimmers out there who don't know that they are swimmers yet. We support one another through life's ups and downs. We need and love all of us swimming together, pushing each other to work harder, to get stronger and to go faster. Most importantly, to show up and leave it all in the pool.

I hope this has given you a better understanding of what the Masters swim programs are and what they do for Maui. As you consider what to charge Masters swim organizations to use the pools for this purpose, please keep in mind these benefits they bring at little to no cost to the county.

Someday, when this coronavirus lock down is over, and we are back swimming together again in the beautiful Maui County pools, please stop by and check out what the swim community is giving to the people of Maui. Perhaps you will realize that you too are a swimmer, and you will join us.

A hui hou, swimmingly yours,

Kim Harter

EDB Committee

From: mikeleonemaui@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 9:16 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui Real Property Tax Public Hearing - I support fair tax rates

Dear County Council Chair Alice Lee and Councilmembers

RE: Real Property Tax Public Hearing

Thank you for the opportunity to speak about this year's proposed real property tax rates.

Short term rental industry has been closed to visitors since mid-March when the pandemic closed the island. We are unable to rent our property or take bookings. It is likely that this moratorium will reach into June. The health of the community is the priority and we are supporting that, but the far reaching economic effects of this shut down will be felt through this next fiscal year.

The short term rental industry has been hit hard by the Coronavirus pandemic. Without income, the same expenses must be funded. It would be a great relief if the County would consider reducing short term rental rate to \$8.28/\$1000 for the first \$800,000 of value. The Short Term Rental classification is extremely high and based on the ability of the permitted owner to rent their house/condo to vacationers.

It is extremely unfair that the rate for Hotels was reduced while hotels are allowed to operate. Short Term Rentals are a legitimate, regulated and fundamental part of Maui's visitor industry, and we should be treated as such. If the hotels get a reduction so should we.

Suspending this high tax rate during the pandemic and replacing it with one that is more financially manageable would be very helpful at this difficult time. If that's not possible, perhaps a rebate would be achievable. Any help during this stressful crisis would be welcome.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated.

We are an important part of our community and the tourism industry. I am supportive of the council's efforts to find a fair and equitable solution for taxing the vacation rental industry that limits any negative implications for the community.

Thank you for considering my testimony.
Mahalo nui loa,
Michael

Michael Leone
BBWM 2019/001
808-419-1001
mikeleonemaui@gmail.com

EDB Committee

From: Mitzi Toro <mitzi@themaucookie lady.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:26 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony Submission

Re: Testimony for in support of Maui Visitors Bureau

Name: Mitzi Toro

Occupation: Owner of Small Business, Maui Cookie Lady Bakery

I am writing today in my support of funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. Now, more than ever I feel the urgency for advertising, marketing and reaching potential visitors to come to Maui for the first time and/or come back to Maui for a vacation.

Unlike many other tourist destinations on the mainland we are a single substance economy. Our tourism is a barometer of our economy. The visitor industry not only affects the direct jobs that work with visitors but a trickle down effect. I have understood that the affects of the pandemic can have a trickle down affect on as much as 75% of our economy.

Our business solves the gift giving problem. What to bring back from vacation that is unique to give as a gift. We depend on tourists to buy our products and share our band. This is how our social media following got built and how we get our follow up shipping orders. Without a steady flow of tourism to come visit and buy our products I feel our company will struggle in acquiring new customers. I strongly believe if we invest in marketing to tourist and tourism it will strengthen our economy.

Maui tourism is a trade. It is also economic vitality and it is economic development. It is dependent on disposable income. Investment in Maui Visitors Bureau to promote Tourism marketing creates a payback to the economy and the government many times over.

The remarkable point is that Maui has few economic options like Tourism, where a positive return is first realized in the year in which the investment is made, a return that continues for many years.

And, it is an investment that generates tax revenues for government, revenues that can be used to fund important needs for Maui- through that trickle down affect. And those revenues are generated throughout the county to every community, every corner, providing positive economic benefits to our rural community that depends on it.

Maui Tourism is Everybody's Business and as a single substance economy our future as a small business depends on it as does many businesses big or small.

Mahalo for your support, time and listening to my testimony. It is greatly appreciated.

--



Mitzi Toro

Owner & Founder

The Maui Cookie Lady

w: www.themaucookie lady.com e: themaucookie lady@gmail.com



Good Morning America | ABC News | Pacific Business News

2016 Hawaii SBDC (Small Business Development Center) - SBA Success Story

2016 Hawai'i Business Magazine- Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year- Finalist

EDB Committee

From: Dean Trotzuk <dtrotzuk@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 11:49 AM
To: EDB Committee; Kelly King; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: RE: Maui County Budget Hearings - I support fair tax rates for Commercialized Residential

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

RE: Commercialized Residential Tax Rate

Aloha,

Katherine and I have been fortunate to have had a B&B permit for approximately 1 year. During this time, we've had the pleasure of hosting families and couples on our property and have been able to show these guests to our island paradise the true Aloha spirit. Whilst the number of guests hasn't been large, they have made a large difference in our quality of life and that of our community. We're able to offer guests a unique Maui experience while involving the local community in the improvement, maintenance, and upkeep of our home. And we've been able to keep the property consistent with the aesthetics of our neighborhood. We can honestly say that it's been a "win/win" situation for all.

Given the current disruption to our way of island life, we've been unable to host visitors to our home for some time and will not be able to do so for the foreseeable future. We understand in principal the higher tax rate imposed on B&Bs. In light of the fact that guests will be down markedly for 2020 and 2021 and we still incur most of the same expenses (guest improvements, repairs, gardening, etc) as before, we believe that the equitable and fair course of action is lower the property tax rate for commercialized residential properties to the lowest amount being considered - \$3.35 per 1 million assessment.

We're all in this together and we hope that the rates charged will reflect the current unfortunate situation we and others on Maui are encountering.

Sincerely

Dean and Katherine Trotzuk

EDB Committee

From: Vento, Angela <Angela.Vento@wailea-beachresort.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 3:45 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura; EDB Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Testimony: Real Property Tax Rates for the County of Maui, FY 2020-2021

RE: Real Property Tax Rates for the County of Maui, FY 2020-2021

Aloha Council Chair Lee and members of the Council,

My name is Angela Vento, resident of Pukalani, a working mother and wife. I have spent 25 years of my adult life here in Hawaii working in hospitality through robust as well as lean times. Currently, I am General Manager at Wailea Beach Resort, Marriott representing over 500 associates and affiliated resort partners.

Our visitor industry is still positioned as Maui's largest economic driver and source of tax revenue. The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted all of us living on the island. 58% unemployment has resulted from the pandemic. Resorts including Wailea Beach Resort, Marriott have suspended operations and over 90% of our associates have no work. Currently, we have been able to sustain medical benefits and provide other aid to those not working. We are actively reviewing operational protocols. Financial impacts of operating our business with social distancing, more stringent cleaning protocols and vastly lower occupancies will determine when to reopen.

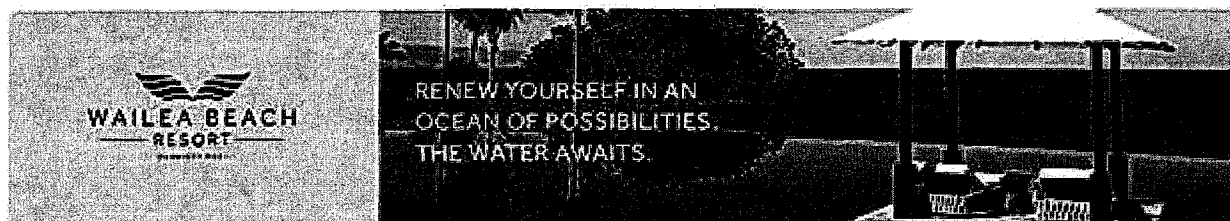
Last fiscal year, properties in the hotel-resort tax category in Maui County had their rates increased to \$11.00 per \$1,000 of assessed value. The burden of increased property values paired with proposed increased property taxes will limit what we can do for our associates and our ability to resume operations. We support Mayor Victorino's plan to reduce property taxes for hotels and condos from \$11.00 to \$9.37. With your approval, this measure would help reinvigorate Maui's economy including the careful reopening of hotels and sustaining employment of our Wailea Beach Resort, Marriott 'Ohana.

I respectfully appreciate your consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,
Angela

Angela Vento
General Manager | Wailea Beach Resort

3700 Wailea Alanui Drive | Wailea, HI 96793
angela.vento@waileabeachresort.com | 808-874-7000



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EDB Committee

From: Spurrier, Sam <sam.spurrier@waileabeachresort.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:05 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura; EDB Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Real Property Tax Rates for the County of Maui, FY 2020-2021

RE: Real Property Tax Rates for the County of Maui, FY 2020-2021

Aloha Chair Lee and Maui County Council Members,

My name is Sam Spurrier, I am a resident of Kihei, a husband, a father of 4, and I enjoy volunteering within my church, community, and mentoring students. I was born and raised on the Island of Oahu and have been in the hospitality industry for the last 14 years, with 9 of them here in Maui. Currently, I am the Director of Group Sales at the Wailea Beach Resort.

It is a privilege to share testimony on behalf of the Resort and the tourism industry in opposition to the proposed increase in Real Property Taxes.

It wasn't many years ago in 2008 when the visitor industry suffered a significant hit which took years to recover. I particularly remember this time as I was finishing college and seeking a career in hospitality. There weren't many opportunities due to the hiring freezes. Today, we find ourselves in a changed environment which I believe all will agree is and has the potential to become much more of a challenging and longer recovery than 2008 and even 9-11. As we are experiencing now, majority of the Hotels on Maui are closed or have temporarily suspended operations and were forced to furlough or temporarily lay-off majority of the employees. The tourism industry has halted here in Maui and we need to think about recovery.

With the unemployment rate at 58% due to the pandemic, every dollar spent on increased Real Property Taxes will delay bringing our people, our associates, and our Maui residents back to work.

We have a responsibility to our people and our residents who make Maui home and many of whom work in the hospitality industry. This is about employing our residents so that they can support their families and in turn reinvigorate the local economy.

A recent from The Brookings Institute that studies the hardest hit communities from a job-loss standpoint ranks the Lahaina/Wailuku/Kahului community the 2nd hardest hit community in the US.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/03/17/the-places-a-covid-19-recession-will-likely-hit-hardest/>

We are working through these times in partnership with Marriott International and our Ownership Group to resume operations at the Resort and it is the absolute highest priority to get our associates back to work as soon as possible.

Let's all work together in getting them back to work vs. creating additional hurdles to make that happen, especially ones that we can control. We support Mayor Victorino's plan to reduce property taxes for hotels and condos from \$11.00 to \$9.37. For all the reasons mentioned today, we ask that you carefully consider your recommended property tax increases so that our industry and economy can recover, Resorts reopen, and employment be sustained.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,

Sam

Samuel Spurrier

Director of Group Sales | [Wailea Beach Resort](#)

3700 Wailea Alanui Drive | Wailea, HI 96753

sam.spurrier@waileabeachresort.com | 808.874.7845 (O) | 808.214.8046 (M)



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EDB Committee

From: Frank "Bud" Pikrone <gm@wcamaui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 28, 2020 4:19 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura; EDB Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Property Taxes Testimony
Attachments: Taxes 4-28.pdf

Please read the attached.

Frank "Bud" Pikrone
General Manager

Wailea Community Association
Wailea Resort Association
555 Kaukahi Street
Wailea, HI 96753
808-874-6866
gm@wcamaui.com



April 23, 2020

RE: Proposed Property Tax Hikes for 2020/21

Aloha,

I'm sure I am not the only one noting that this is not the right time to be seeking increases in taxes, as the members of the Wailea community have expressed to me. The focus should be on getting the Maui economy up and running as quickly, efficiently, and completely as allowed and possible. Raising taxes could very well derail any such efforts and slow down the reinsertion of employees into the workforce. Consider this:

- Raising taxes on hotels, while unfathomable at this time, along with cutting MVCB marketing, will definitely put the County at a serious disadvantage and slow the island's recovery as well as the rehiring of thousands of employees;
- Increasing taxes on short-term rentals will cause a couple issues – owners who rent their unit when they are not here because they may be on a fixed income, are lumped in with owners with multiple investment units, and they may have to sell, possibly to an owner occupant, or stop renting if they can afford it, and either way pay lower taxes that they are now;
- Raised taxes on homes and condos may also affect jobs in the construction field;
- Large commercial properties (shopping centers/malls) will have to pass along their increase which will hurt the small business owner in their recovery effort. Yes, even the big fancy malls have small, local businesses in them and if they can't reopen, or cannot sustain their business, the trickle down will last much longer.

Some people think this is the perfect time to control tourism, but Maui has enjoyed a luxury market that has brought in millions in tax dollars for years. This is not the time to increase taxes which will slow down, and possibly negatively change how Maui does business at a time when we can't afford it. Like many things in today's world, please consider postponing this discussion and revisiting this issue next year when we may have a better idea of where our economy stands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Frank Pikrone", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Frank "Bud" Pikrone
General Manager

EDB Committee

From: Sandy Pawai <spawai_onmaui02@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 11:43 AM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Melanie Padgett
Subject: Subsidy Assistance

Dear Maui County Council,

This letter is to express my gratitude and appreciation for your organization in assisting my ohana throughout the times. It really helps whenever someone is able to help and pick up the slack, so to speak, for those of us who cannot. We are a family of 3; lives in Kula; single family income household, so trying to figure out which bills are most important and being able to pay for all that life throws at you can be at times stressful and seemingly impossible to prevail in. I work downtown and my two girls go to Noah's Ark Preschool. I thank you for being that extra support for my family and I when those times arise which is more than I'd like it to be. Also, Melanie is an awesome woman who goes out of way to make sure all families are helped and I feel she is the heart of your program! Thank you for being there and for your financial support because now days, everything helps. Mahalo from the bottom of our hearts!

Best Regards,

Sandy Mariano
(808) 269-2456

EDB Committee

From: Linda Mitchell <lindafinearts@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 9:34 AM
To: EDB Committee; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Tamara A. Paltin; Mike J. Molina; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: raising taxes on short term rentals

Hello,

I attended the meeting last night via the phone, and I was able to express my concern about adding any higher tax bills to our two, legal one-bedroom vacation condo rentals. Thank you for listening.

I just wanted to add emphasis and plead with you not to give us an extra financial burden at a time when we are losing money every month. My husband and I have had cancellations and made sure that total amounts were returned to the guests if they didn't want to reschedule. Of course, we are not able to take new bookings until we are cleared to do so. Obviously, this Pandemic was not our fault, but we wanted to treat people the way we would have liked to have been treated if we were in their position. We have taken the loss. We still must pay mortgage, homeowners' fees, insurance, phone, and electricity with no indication of when we can have income.

Someone mentioned last night that the short term rental owners were "rich" and thus, implied that it would be fine for them to pay more. There may be some who are rich, but my husband is a retired high school teacher. I don't think his retirement check puts us in the "rich" category.

We have often thought it was a stretch that we had to pay the same property tax rate on one bedroom condos as a hotel with multiple rooms to rent. Now, it seems unbelievable that the hotel may be getting a lower rate while ours is elevated. The fact that the hotels can legally rent now, and we cannot adds to our difficulty in understanding the justice.

Thank you.

Linda Mitchell

EDB Committee

From: Kai Nishiki via Change.org <change@e.change.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 4:00 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: New petition to you: Defund Maui Visitors Bureau(MVB)

change.org

Maui County Council: you've been listed as a decision maker

Kai Nishiki started a petition on Change.org and listed you as a decision maker. Learn more about Kai Nishiki's petition and how you can respond:

Defund the Maui Visitors Bureau!

Tell the Maui County Council that you don't support the Mayor's proposal to give the Maui Visitors Bureau \$3.5 million to pay for tourism advertisements!

Defund the Maui Visitors Bureau and use the \$3.5 million in taxpayer's money to help our residents and community in need!



Kai Nishiki is petitioning Maui County Council

Defund Maui Visitors Bureau(MVB)

Please sign and share this petition asking the Maui County Council to Defund Maui Visitors Bureau (MVB) and instead

put the Mayor's proposed \$3.5 million to better use supporting our residents and communities! Each year Maui County awards MVB the...

[View the petition](#)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. View the petition: [Learn about the petition and its supporters](#).

You will receive updates as new supporters sign the petition so you can see who is signing and why.

2. Respond to the petition: [Post a response](#) to let the petition supporters know you're listening, say whether you agree with their call to action, or ask them for more information.

3. Continue the dialogue: Read the comments posted by petition supporters and continue the dialogue so that others can see you're an engaged leader who is willing to participate in open discussion.

CHANGE.ORG FOR DECISION MAKERS

On Change.org, decision makers like you connect directly with people around the world to resolve issues. [Learn more](#).

This notification was sent to EDB.committee@mauicounty.us, the address listed as the decision maker.

[Privacy policy](#)

We'd love to hear from you! [Contact us](#) through our help center.

Change.org · 548 Market St #29993, San Francisco, CA 94104-5401, USA

EDB Committee

From: Ann Wallace <annwallace53@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 9:07 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Mahalo for supporting the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka

Please use some of the Open Space funds to preserve this important area!

Best, Ann Wallace



EDB Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 9:50 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Support Ma'alaee Mauka/Pohakea Watershed
Attachments: PohakeaCountyClerk.pdf

From: Ranae Ganske-Cerizo <ranaeganske@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 9:28 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Fwd: Support Ma'alaee Mauka/Pohakea Watershed

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ranae Ganske-Cerizo <ranaeganske@yahoo.com>
Date: May 1, 2020 at 8:21:47 AM HST
To: edb.commtee@mauicounty.us
Subject: Support Ma'alaee Mauka/Pohakea Watershed

To Whom this May Concern,
On behalf of MG&B we are submitting support for the Ma'alaee Mauka/Pohakea Watershed.

Mahalo for your time,
Happy May Day!

Sent from my iPad



Maui Green & Beautiful

*Caring for the Āina
Through Preservation, Protection & Education*

To: edb.committee@mauicounty.us
County.clerk@mauicounty.us

Maui Green & Beautiful (MG&B), a nonprofit organization caring for the Aina of Maui for over seven years through preservation, protection and education, supports the purchase of the 257-acre Pohakea Watershed (Maalaea Mauka) with open space funds.

This important purchase will improve the quality of life for Maui County residents. Preserving the Hawaiian culture and history of the site and the striking views of the Pacific Ocean, beaches, mountains, wetlands, air, plants, animals of this site tells a story of a sense of place. Maui County also needs additional green space for recreation.

Every year Maui County finds itself on national lists of the best place to visit and live. This is an excellent opportunity to take advantage of the nature and beauty of Maui County which will build an even better, healthier, community to plan and invest in a way that its unique character is never lost.

Recognizing all these factors, focused on utilizing our unique natural assets for the betterment of our community now and for future generations we strongly support Maui County's purchase of the Pohakea Watershed. This purchase charts a course for ensuring that our natural legacy continues to enhance the environmental, social, and economic well-being of Maui County in the future.

Sincerely,

Ranae Ganske- Cerizo, President
Barbara Fernandez, Vice President
Rene Long, Secretary
Elaine Malina, Treasurer
Arine Bulkley, Director
Lynn Britton, Director
Maui Green & Beautiful
April 30, 2020

PO BOX 402 KAHULUI, HI 96733
mauigreenbeautiful@gmail.com

www.mauibeautiful.org

EDB Committee

From: louise99016@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 4:06 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Mahalo for supporting the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka

Sent from my iPhone

EDB Committee

From: Ranae Ganske-Cerizo <ranaeganske@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 02, 2020 2:24 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Fwd: Support Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed
Attachments: PohakeaCountyClerk.pdf

Aloha,
Resending, please see below.
Mahalo,
Ranae

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ranae Ganske-Cerizo <ranaeganske@yahoo.com>
Date: May 1, 2020 at 8:21:47 AM HST
To: edb.committee@mauicounty.us
Subject: Support Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed

To Whom this May Concern,
On behalf of MG&B we are submitting support for the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed.

Mahalo for your time,
Happy May Day!

Sent from my iPad



Maui Green & Beautiful

*Caring for the Āina
Through Preservation, Protection & Education*

To: edb.committee@mauicounty.us
County.clerk@mauicounty.us

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Lynn Britton, Director
Maui Green & Beautiful
April 30, 2020

PO BOX 402 KAHULUI, HI 96733
mauigreenbeautiful@gmail.com

www.mauibeautiful.org