

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
PUBLIC HEARING
MINUTES**

**April 22, 2025
6:00 PM**

Pursuant to §92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the meeting was conducted as a remote meeting by interactive conference technology, via Microsoft Teams, <http://tinyurl.com/2p9zhjr2>.

In person testimony and viewing: Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii.

Video recording of meeting available at: www.mauicounty.legistar.com

TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Councilmember	Pres.	Abs.	Exc.	Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)
CM Pro Tempore Tasha Kama	√			
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	√			
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson	√			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez			√	Arr.: 6:03 p.m.
CM Tom Cook	√			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins			√	Arr.: 6:22 p.m.
CM Shane Sinenci	√			
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
TOTAL PRESENT	7		2	

Resolution No. 25-88 "ADOPTING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2025"

No legislative action was taken.

TIME MEETING RECESSED: 7:51 p.m.
(Meeting recessed until May 13, 2025 at 11: a.m.)

TRANSCRIPTION

Council of the County of Maui on 2025-04-22 6:00 PM

[GAVEL] [CALL TO ORDER] [ROLL CALL] VICE-CHAIR YUKI LEI SUGIMURA >> GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY AND LOOKING FORWARD TO LEARNING FROM THE COMMUNITY. >> OKAY, I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO SAY YOU HOPE WE HAVE A PRODUCTIVE MEETING. >> I ALWAYS SAY THAT YOU ALWAYS SAY THAT AND I ALWAYS WONDER WHY. >> COUNCIL MEMBER TAMARA PALTIN. >> ALOHA KAKOU. >> COUNCIL MEMBER GABE JOHNSON. >> ALOHA CHAIR, COUNCIL MEMBERS, COMMUNITY MEMBERS.\r\n\r\nTHERE'S NO TESTIFIERS AT THE LANAI DISTRICT OFFICE AND I'M HERE AND READY TO WORK. MAHALO. >> COUNCILMAN KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ. >> WILL BE JOINING US SOON, I'M PRETTY SURE. >> COUNCIL MEMBER TOM COOK. >> ALOHA AND GOOD EVENING. >> COUNCIL MEMBER NOHELANI UU-HODGINS.\r\n\r\n>> EXCUSED. >> COUNCIL MEMBER SHANE SINENCI. >> ALOHA AHI AHI KAKOU. >> AND COUNCIL CHAIR ALICE LEE. >> ALOHA KAKOU. >> EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A TYPO HERE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES EFFECTIVE JULY 1,2025; RIGHT?\r\n\r\nOKAY MS. CLERK. >> THANK YOU, CHAIR. THERE'S SEVEN MEMBERS PRESENT. TWO ARE EXCUSED AND FOR THE RECORD, I'M THE COUNTY CLERK MOANA LUTEY AND DEPUTY CLERK RICHELLE THOMSON AND LEGISLATIVE DIVISION STAFF LAUREN SALDANA, ARTHUR SUYAMA AND JOYCE MURASHIGE. FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES IS DIRECTOR DAVID RAATZ AND THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR RICHELLE KAWASAKI AND FROM THE OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL WE HAVE KRISTINATOSHIKIYO. >> BEFORE WE PROCEED WITH THE PUBLIC HEARING, MAY I PLEASE REQUEST THAT EVERYONE KEEP THEIR MICROPHONES MUTED UNLESS IT'S YOUR TURN TO SPEAK.\r\n\r\nBEFORE WE PROCEED WITH TONIGHT'S PUBLIC HEARING, MAY I PLEASE REQUEST THAT EVERYONE KEEP THEIR MICROPHONES MUTED UNLESS IT'S YOUR TURN. AS A REMINDER, TESTIMONY MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA. WHEN TESTIFYING PLEASE DIRECT YOUR REMARKS TO THE COUNCIL, AND NOT TO ANY INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL MEMBER, OR MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC. EACH TESTIFIER WILL BE ALLOWED TO SPEAK YOU UP TO THREE MINUTES ON EACH ITEM. FOR INDIVIDUALS WISHING TO TESTIFY ON TEAMS PLEASE CLICK THE RAISE YOUR HAND BUTTON TO BE ADDED TO THE LOG. IF YOU ARE CALLING IN, PLEASE FOLLOW THE PHONE PROMPTS TO BE ADDED TO THE TESTIFIER LOG. DECORUM SHALL BE MAINTAINED AT ALL TIMES.\r\n\r\nANY PERSON WHO BEHAVES IN A MANNER THAT DISRUPTS, DISTURBS OR IMPEDES THE ORDERLY CON DUG OF ANY COUNCIL MEETING CAN AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDING OFFICER, OR A MAJORITY OF PRESENT COUNCIL MEMBERS BE EJECTED OR BANNED FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS, OR IF PARTICIPATING REMOTELY, MUTED OR DROPPED FROM THE MEETING. EXAMPLES OF DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR INCLUDE, BUT NOT LIMITED TO HECKLING, SHOUTING, USE OF PROFANITY, THREATENING OR SLANDEROUS REMARKS MADE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL, STAFF OR GENERAL PUBLIC. MS. CLERK, PLEASE PROCEED. >> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. AT THIS TIME INDIVIDUALS MAY TESTIFY ON RESOLUTION 25-88, ENTITLED, "ADOPTING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI EFFECTIVE JULY 1,2025." CHAIR THE FIRST TO TESTIFY IS JOHN PELE, FOLLOWED BY PAMELA TUMPAP. CHAIR WE JUST NEED A QUICK RECESS.\r\n\r\nWE'RE HAVING AN ISSUE WITH OUR MICROPHONE. >> THIS MEETING IS IN RECESS UNTIL 6:10. THANK YOU. [GAVEL] >> WILL THE PUBLIC HEARING OF APRIL 22ND, 2025 PLEASE RECONVENE. IT IS NOW 6:10 P.M. MS. CLERK. >> THANK YOU, MADAM CHAIR. THE FIRST TESTIFIER IS JOHN PELE, FOLLOWED BY PAMELA TUMPAP.\r\n\r\n>> ALOHA COUNCIL MEMBERS, CHAIR LEE, GOOD EVENING. JOHN PELE FROM THE MAUI HOTEL AND LODGING ASSOCIATION. HERE TO TESTIFY ON THE PROPERTY TAX RATES. AND I JUST GOT TO SAY I HAVE BEEN WATCHING YOU GUYS YOU GUYS ARE USUALLY UP ON MY SCREEN IN MY OFFICE. THE NEXT TIME I DECIDE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT A LONG DAY, I WILL THINK ABOUT EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU, BECAUSE I REALLY APPRECIATE THE WORK YOU PUT IN AND THE DAY AND COUNCIL MEMBER PALTIN TALKING ABOUT WRITING THINGS IN YOUR SLEEP AT 11:30, MIDNIGHT, IMPRESSIVE, THAT YOU DO THAT. HAVING SAID THAT, I WILL LEAD INTO MY

TESTIMONY. IT WILL BE BRIEF THE MAUI HOTEL AND LODGING ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO SAY IT SUPPORTS THE 2026 PROPOSED TAX RATE THES FOR HOTELS AND RESORTS AT THE FLAT RATE OF 11.75 AS IT WAS IN 2025 AND JUST ASKS YOU ARE DELIBERATING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES THAT YOU TAKE THIS INTO CONSIDERATION AS OUR VISITOR INDUSTRY AND OUR HOTELS ARE STILL RECOVERING.\r\n\r\nTHAT IS MY TESTIMONY. THANK YOU. >> QUESTIONS? I SEE ONE, MEMBER PALTIN LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COUNCIL MEMBER KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ IS PRESENT. GOOD EVENING, MEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ . >> ALOHA AHI AHI, CHAIR. I'M SORRY. THERE WAS NO AUDIO EARLIER.\r\n\r\nBUT I'M GLAD WE FIXED IT NOW. I'M IN A PUBLIC SPACE. AND THERE ARE CURRENTLY NO TESTIFIERS AT THE MOLOKA'I DISTRICT OFFICE. ALOHA, MR. PELE. >> ALOHA, HOW ARE YOU COUNCILWOMAN. >> IM HALA.\r\n\r\n>> SORRY ABOUT YOUR FLAT TIRE TODAY. [LAUGHTER] >> MAHALO FOR THAT. >> THANK YOU, CHAIR, THANK YOU, MR. PELE. YOU KNOW, THE HOTELS PROVIDED A LOT OF SHELTER FOR THE WEST MAUI RESIDENTS IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE FIRE. AND SO YOU KNOW PERSONALLY I WON'T FORGET THAT. I JUST HAD A QUESTION REGARDING THE HOTEL'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE ECONOMY, AND WHAT NOT, AND I HAVE HAD CONSTITUENTS IN WEST MAUI SAYING THAT PREVIOUSLY, I THINK MOSTLY PRE-COVID, THAT A LOT OF THE ACTIVITIES AND THINGS LIKE THAT, A LOT OF LOCAL PEOPLE USED TO RUN, LIKE CONCIERGES WOULD DIRECT IS THAT BUSINESS AND I KNOW A LOT OF THEM HAD SHUT DOWN AFTER COVID AND MAYBE YOU KNOW AFTER ESPECIALLY AFTER THE FIRE AND BUT AS THEY ARE LOOKING TO START UP AGAIN, A LOT OF HOTELS ARE CONSOLIDATING, THAT IN-HOUSE NOW.\r\n\r\nSO THEY ARE NOT KEEPING MORE OF THAT REVENUE IN THESE MULTI-NATIONAL COMPANIES THAT COME INTO MAUI AS OPPOSED TO MORE SUPPORTING THE ECONOMIC DIVERSITY OF THE COUNTY, OFF OF TOURISM, WHICH IS SUPER DIVERSE. BUT IS THERE ANY POLICY OR DIRECTION TO BE MORE INVOLVED IN THE LOCAL BUSINESS COMMUNITY? >> THANKS FOR THAT QUESTION. IN ALL HONESTY, I'M NOT AWARE OF THAT SITUATION. BUT I COULD DEFINITELY FIND ANSWERS FOR YOU, IF YOU NEED THEM. I HAVEN'T BEEN EXPOSED TO THAT MANY OF THE VENDORS THAT YOU TALK ABOUT. I KNOW A LOT OF PEOPLE WENT THROUGH A LOT OF THINGS, AND YOU KNOW, I TRY NOT TO BRING UP THE DISASTER, BECAUSE YOU KNOW, WE ARE ALL TRYING TO MOVE ON AND HEAL.\r\n\r\nI KNOW IT GOES A LONG WAY FOR THE HOTEL PROPERTIES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE PROPERTY TAXES BECAUSE THEY ARE RECOVERING. WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE NUMBERS. I THINK WE RAN AT 62% IN 2024. WHAT IT BASICALLY BOILS DOWN TO FREE UP MONEYS TO DO THINGS LIKE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, TALKING ABOUT WATER; RIGHT? WE HAVE TO MAKE SOME SERIOUS EFFICIENCIES IN OUR WATER PRACTICES AND OTHER THINGS. IT ALSO HAS TO DEAL WITH KEEPING -- GETTING OCCUPANCY UP, BECAUSE THE BOTTOM-LINE FOR ME, AS A REPRESENTATIVE, IS OUR EMPLOYEES WHO WORK IN THE INDUSTRY, KEEPING THEM WORKING. I COME FROM THE INDUSTRY, ; RIGHT? I WAS A BUS BOY TO GENERAL MANAGER.\r\n\r\nI DEPENDED ON MY WORK AND JUST ONE DAY OFF OF MY SCHEDULE WAS TOUGH. SOME PEOPLE JUST SAY OH, YOU GET FOUR DAYS, INSTEAD OF FIVE. NO BIG DEAL. IT'S A BIG DEAL WHEN PEOPLE ARE MISSING ONE SHIFT. >> YES. >> I CAN LOOK AT SOME OF THE THOSE. I WASN'T WARE AND I WILL BE HONEST I'M NOT WARE OF THE VENDOR SITUATION, BUT I CAN DEFINITELY FIND THAT OUT IT'S EASIER TO MAKE THE CASE TO KEEP THE RATES LOW WHEN THEY BRING IN THAT REVENUE TO SMALL LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESSES.\r\n\r\nBUT IF THE HOTEL IS THE EMPLOYER FOR EVERYTHING, AND IT'S EVERYONE ELSE IS JUST WORKERS INSTEAD OF LIKE SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS, IT'S A LITTLE BIT HARDER OF A SELL TO KEEP THE RATES LOW. SO JUST SAYING HELP ME HELP YOU. >> YES, DEFINITELY. >> NOT QUID PRO QUO. >> I GOT IT AND I HEARD THE RATE RESISTANCE THING AND IF I COULD SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THAT? WE KNOW IN 2018 AND 2019 WE KIND OF OVERDID IT, THE INDUSTRY OVERDID IT AND WE ALL ADMIT THAT. PROBABLY FROM ANY OTHER YEAR, A DECADE BEFORE THAT HALF A MILL MILLION OR MORE VISITORS COME TO THIS ISLAND HEADS IN THE BEDS SELL IT OUT AND THEN COVID HIT AND WE ALL UNDERSTAND SOCIALLY MYSELF THAT HEY, WE KIND OF OVERDID IT.\r\n\r\nECONOMICALLY WAS A DIFFERENT STORY. I

HAD BOTH SIDES THE COIN OWNING A RESTAURANT ON MOLOKA'I. I GOT SHUT DOWN DURING COVID AND SO THE RATE RESISTANCE I HAVE HEARD THIS BEFORE, IS VALUE OVER VOLUME; RIGHT? YOU GET HIGHER RATES AND THAT IS THE DIRECTION, I THINK YOU WILL SEE US GOING. BUT WE CAN'T HAVE BOTH; RIGHT? YOU EITHER HAVE TO HAVE VALUE OR YOU HAVE TO HAVE VOLUME. IT CAN'T BE BOTH. SO WE HOPEFULLY, WE COULD -- MAKE SOME AMENDS WITH THAT, AND WORK TOWARDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR THE VISITOR INDUSTRY.\r\n\r\nAND WORK TOGETHER. WE WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION. I'M HERE, I WANT TO BE PART OF THE SOLUTION, STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU GUYS AND JUST ALL ABOUT BEING PART OF THE SOLUTION, BEING COMMUNITY ORIENTED HOW WE CAN BE PART OF THE SOLUTION? HOW CAN WE PROVE OURSELVES TO THE COMMUNITY, SO THANKS. >> ANY MORE QUESTIONS? MEMBER SUGIMURA. >> GOOD EVENING.\r\n\r\n>> GOOD EVENING. >> SO GOOD TO SEE, AND I JUST WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FOR VERY MUCH FOR GIVING THE VISITOR INDUSTRY A VOICE. BECAUSE IT'S GOOD THAT YOU ARE HERE TO TESTIFY. WE HAVE NOT HEARD FROM THEM, SO PLEASE. >> THAT IS WE FEED TO BE MORE PRESENT AND WE NEED TO BE MORE UPFRONT AND SHARING HONESTLY TRANSPARENCY. >> THANK YOU. >> MEMBER COOK.\r\n\r\n>> THANK YOU. MY CLARIFYING QUESTION, WHEN YOU SAID KEEPING RATES UP IS THAT KEEPING PROFITABLE WITH LESS OCCUPANCY THAT WE'RE NOT BEING OVERLY -- THAT KIND OF MESSAGE THAT WAS SENT; RIGHT? >> THAT IS THE KIND OF VISION. EITHER WE'RE GOING PUT HEADS IN THE BEDS AND HAVE P.35 MILLION VISITORS ON MAUI WHICH WE DID IN 2019, WHICH WAS PRETTY HORRENDOUS. I WASN'T LIVING IN HERE IN 19, BUT I CAN TELL FROM THE FEEDBACK I RECEIVED FROM LOCAL RESIDENTS IT WAS WAY TOO MUCH AND SOME OF OUR HOTEL PROPERTIES THEY ADMIT THAT. WE WHOLE HEARTEDLY EMBRACE THAT. >> THANK YOU.\r\n\r\nIF YOU COULD LOOK INTO THE REINFORCING SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES, AND THE CATERERS AND STUFF THAT WOULD GO A LONG WAY FOR THE COMMUNITY. >> ABSOLUTELY 100%. I WILL GET BACK TO YOU ON THAT. >> MEMBER SINENCI. >> MAHALO, CHAIR. MAHALO MR. PELLE FOR YOUR TESTIMONY THIS AFTERNOON. YOU TALKED ABOUT QUANTITY AND FOR US IN EAST MAUI, WE'RE HAPPY TO OFF THE OUR VISITORS.\r\n\r\nHOWEVER, IN TIMES WE HAVE ONE HIGHWAY; RIGHT? ROAD GOING IN AND OUT, AND SOMETIMES DURING EMERGENCIES WE WANT TO SOMETIMES CLOSE THE ROAD FOR SAFETY REASONS OR IF WE HAVE COUNTY WORKERS OR STATE WORKERS ON THE ROAD, CLEARING THE ROAD IS -- HAVE YOU BEEN WORKING WITH MEMA CLOSELY? WITH THE HOTELS TO GET THE WORD OUT? SHOULD WE HAVE ANY EMERGENCIES, YOU KNOW, THAT WE WANT TO JUST FLOOD THE EASTSIDE WITH VISITORS YOU KNOW? THOSE ARE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES WE GET OUT IN RURAL-EAST MAUI. >> YES, ABSOLUTELY. I REALLY FEEL FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOU DO A GREAT JOB REPRESENTING THEM.\r\n\r\nONE THING THAT WAS PUT IN PLACE PRIOR TO MY TAKING ON THIS ROLE WAS LISA PAULSON MY PREDECESSOR AND NAOMI COOPER WHO WAS MY DEPUTY DIRECTOR DURING THE DISASTER HAD A LOT OF TIME IN THE EOC SO THEY DID SET UP POLICIES LIKE THAT ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, I AM ON THE FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMIT FOR MAUI COUNTY ON A PERSONAL LEVEL. SO IT'S KIND OF HARD FOR ME TO SAY THAT I DON'T MIX MH LA A WITH MY FIRE COMMISSION DUTIES BECAUSE I'M KNOWLEDGEABLE OF IT SO IT'S A CHANCE NOW TO BRIDGE THAT GAP EVEN STRONGER. I TELL YOU MY FIRST MEETING LAST WEEK THURSDAY MEMA WAS DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB. I MEAN, THEY ARE DONG A GREAT JOB I'M VERY IMPRESSED AT THE FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN THAT THEY HAVE PRESENTED, AND I CAN ALSO BRIDGE THAT GAP, BUT YEAH DEFINITELY. >> MEMBER PALTIN. >> THE OTHER POINT I WANTED TO SAY AND THE REASON WHY I SAY I SUPPORT KEEPING THE RATES STATIC IS THAT YOU KNOW, IN THE CONVERSATION FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL RENTALS AND HOTELS WHEN THERE'S A DISASTER MOST EVER EXPERIENCE I HAVE IS THAT HOTELS OPEN UP THEIR BALLROOM FOR THE RESIDENTS AND THEY TAKE CARE OF THEIR OWN GUESTS AND EVEN SOME RESIDENTS. WHEREAS, MY EXPERIENCE IN THE FIRE IS THE SHORT-TERM RENTAL GUESTS COME, AND IT'S THE COMMUNITY OR THE HUB'S RESPONSIBILITY SO TAKE CARE OF THEM.\r\n\r\nSO IF YOU COULD TAKE THAT MESSAGE BACK, THAT WE APPRECIATE THAT. THANK YOU. >> ABSOLUTELY. I APPRECIATE YOU

SAYING THAT. IT MEANS A LOT. >> THANK YOU. ANY MORE QUESTIONS?\r\n\r\nPRO TEM KAMA.
>> THANK YOU, CHAIR. THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE, AND YOU'RE RIGHT. I FORGOT YOU ARE IN
THE FIRE AND SAFETY COMMISSION. ARE THERE OTHERS IN THE INDUSTRY DOING SIMILAR TYPE
OF WORK THAT YOU DO? WHO COULD POTENTIALLY SIT ON OTHER BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS? >>
OH, DEFINITELY.\r\n\r\nTHERE'S PEOPLE, I ENCOURAGE EVERYONE TO SIT ON THE BOARD AND
COMMISSION. I THINK IT'S PART OF OUR PUBLIC AND CIVIL DUTIES WHETHER THEY WANT TO OR
EMBRACE IS A DIFFERENT STORY, BUT AS FAR AS I AM IN THIS POSITION NOW AND I'M ALWAYS
GOING TO REPRESENT THIS POSITION AS LONG AS I'M IN IT; RIGHT? SO EVERY I GO IN THE
COMMUNITY, THAT IS WHAT I MEAN WHEN I SAY I BRIDGE THE GAP. HOPEFULLY I CAN SHED
ENOUGH LIGHT ON HIGHLIGHT AND CONDUCT MYSELF IN A WAY THAT PEOPLE CAN TRUST ME AND
BELIEVE IN WHAT I SAY. THAT IS THE END GOAL FOR ME IS TO BE AS TRANSPARENT AS
POSSIBLE. >> WE NEED CLONES. >> THANK YOU.\r\n\r\n>> THANK YOU, CHAIR. >> THANK YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH, JOHN. GOOD TO SEE YOU. >> HAVE A GOOD NIGHT. >> THANK YOU. >>
LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT COUNCIL MEMBER NOHE UU-HODGINS IS ALSO PRESENT.\r\n\r\n>>
ALOHA, CHAIR. >> THE NEXT TESTIFIER IS PAMELA TUMPAP TO BE FOLLOWED BY ROYAL HOUSE
OF HAWAI'I. >> PAM, ARE YOU THERE? PAM TUMPAP. WE'LL HAVE TO MOVE ON TO THE NEXT
ONE. SHE IS? >> YOU'RE UNMUTED ON OUR END. PAM, WE'LL COME BACK TO
YOU.\r\n\r\nMOVING TO ROYAL HOUSE OF HAWAI'I, PLEASE, GO AHEAD . >> ALOHA, SORRY,
CAN YOU HEAR? >> YES. >> IS IT GOING THROUGH? OKAY. ALOHA, I'M HERE TO TESTIFY ABOUT
THE REAL PROPERTIES TAXES AKA THE ROYAL PATENTS, THE ORIGINAL BOUNDARIES AND METES
AND BOUNDS THAT THE ILLEGAL STATE MANIPULATED AND TURNED INTO THEIR OWN TAX MAP KEY
AND HAWAI'I REVISED STATUTES 172-11 THE ORIGINAL TITLES OF THAT LAND WHICH ARE THE
ROYAL PATENTS, IF THE LAND IS SUPPOSED TO BE GOING BACK TO THEM, YOU GUYS CAN DO A
TITLE SEARCH. AND A PARCEL HISTORY WITH THE TAX MAP KEY OFFICE, THEY WILL GIVE YOU
ALL THE HEIRS AND FIND THE TRUE DESCENDANTS OF THE LAND AND DO THE DUE DILIGENCE TO
FIND THE DECEDENTS AND THE HEIRS BECAUSE HAWAIIANS KNOW AND US HAWAIIANS WE KNOW ALL
OF THE SOLUTIONS TO EVERYBODY'S PROBLEMS THAT IS HAPPENING. AND I'M PRETTY SURE
WE'RE ABLE TO FIX ALL OF THAT, AND HELP IT FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE, KAMEHAMEHA
III MADE IT FOR ALL PEOPLE TO BE FREE HERE, WHEN EVERYBODY MADE TO OUR
SANDS.\r\n\r\nWE'RE NOT THESE PEOPLE THAT ARE GOING TO BE EVICTING ALL OF THESE
PEOPLE. WE WANT TO WORK IN A WHOLE FOR ALL OF THE COMMUNITY FOR AHUPUA'A FOR OUR
WATERS TO COME BACK AND FLOW AGAIN IS HOW WE SAW IT FOR CLEAR WATER TO BE FLOWING
EVERYWHERE. CLEAR WATER, CLEAN. AND WE NEED TO START DOING THAT ALREADY. WE'RE
TURNING THIS PLANET INTO MARS AND ALL OF US HAWAIIANS ARE RELATED AND THE WALKING
ROYALS. THEY TAPE US IN SCHOOL THAT THEY ENDED THE ROYALS FOR THE LANDOWNERSHIP
WHERE IN REALITY WE'RE THE DESCENDANTS OF THOSE ROYALS AND IT'S TIME TO STEP FORTH
AND BRING US BACK TO THE TABLE, BECAUSE WE HAVE BEEN SAYING IT FOR MANY -- FOR MANY
YEARS ALREADY. AND WE KNOW WHAT IS BEST FOR OVER HERE, AND YEAH, THANKS SO MUCH FOR
HEARING ME OUT.\r\n\r\nSO PLEASE FOLLOW THE LAWS WITH THE REAL PROPERTIES AND CALL
UP ALL THE DESCENDANTS AND BENEFICIARIES TO EVERY SINGLE ROYAL PATENT ON THE
ISLANDS, HUI HO, GOD BLESS YOU GUYS. >> THANK YOU VERY MUCH. ANY QUESTIONS? NO
QUESTIONS. THANK YOU, MAY WE HAVE THE NEXT TESTIFIER. >> CHAIR, WE'LL RETURN TO
PAMELA TUMPAP. >> ALOHA, THANKS SO MUCH.\r\n\r\nI HOPE YOU CAN ALL HEAR ME. >> YES,
WE CAN. >> FANTASTIC. ARGUE THAT FOR YOUR TREMENDOUS TIME AND EFFORT TONIGHT. EXCUSE
ME. I WANTED TO FOCUS ON TWO CATEGORIES. OWNER-OCCUPIED REAL PROPERTY TAXES AND
NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED AND TO FOCUS OWN THESE TWO CATEGORIES IS GIVEN OUR HOUSING CRISIS
AND OUR NEED TO PROTECT LOCAL HYMNS.\r\n\r\nPROPERTY IN MAUI IS EXTREMELY VALUABLE
AND THE MEDIAN HOME PRICES ARE CONTINUING GO UP. WE CREATED A PREMISE BASED ON OUR
2019 HOUSING FORUM WHEN WE LOOKED FOR A WAY TO PROJECT ON WHAT WAS GOING TO HAPPEN
IN THE HOUSING PRICES IN THE FUTURE AND MANY PEOPLE SAID YOU REALLY CAN'T DO THAT

WITH CHANGING INTEREST RATES AND CHANGING MARKET CONDITIONS, ET CETERA AND IT ALWAYS GOES UP-AND-DOWN AND THAT IS TRUE. BUT WE LOOKED FOR A MODEL AND THE MODEL WE FOUND THROUGH A COUSIN OF MINE, WHO IS A MORTGAGE BROKER AND WE USED THE REVERSE MORTGAGE SCENARIO THAT YOU OFTEN SEE WITH SENIORS WHERE THEY HAVE TO PROJECT OUT WHAT THE HOME VALUE MIGHT BE WHEN A PERSON PASSES AWAY. AND WHAT WAS HOW TO PROJECT THAT OUT AND AT THE TIME THEY USED 6% INTEREST RATE AND SINCE IT WAS A FORUM AND I DIDN'T WANT TO SHOCK EVERYBODY AND IT SINCE MODEL HADN'T REALLY BEEN USED WE USED A VERY LOW INTEREST RATE OF 4 PS AND I SAID AT THE TIME WE WOULD BE WRONG. IN FACT, WE WOULD BE LOW, BUT USING 4% MODEL THE MEDIAN HOME PRICE STARTING BACK IN 2019 WHICH HAD BEEN ABOUT \$875,000 MEDIAN HOME PRICE. WE REALIZED THAT PROJECTING IT OUT SEVERAL YEARS BY 2024 WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT \$1.2 MILLION MEDIAN HOME PRICE AND OF COURSE, WE EXCEEDED THAT AND BY 2024 WE WOULD BE LOOKING AT OVER \$2 MILLION MEDIAN HOME PRICE. SO I MET WITH COUNCIL MEMBER SUGIMURA AND I HAVE MET WITH AND TALKED TO THE MAYOR ABOUT THIS CONCEPT THAT I'M GOING SHARE WITH AND I TALKED TO MARCY AND I APPRECIATE THAT THE MAYORS RAISED THE OWNER-OCCUPIED FIRST HERE TO 1.3. AND UNDER HOWEVER, THE CHALLENGE IS WE HAVE ALREADY HIT 1.295 MILLION JUST IN THIS PAST MARCH.\r\n\r\nSO THE 1.3 IS STILL LOW. SO WE RECOMMEND THAT LOW TIER ON OWNER-OCCUPIED THE FIRST TIER BEING 1.5 MILLION AND UNDER, BECAUSE WE'RE TALKING ABOUT OUR LOCAL HOMEOWNERS. AND WE KNOW HISTORY HAS SHOWN AND AGAIN, THAT 4% INTEREST RATE, WE'RE GOING TO SEE SKYROCKETING OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS AND MANY PEOPLE WHO ARE INVESTING IN MAUI YOU KNOW ARE ALWAYS SAYING THAT OUR REAL PROPERTY TAXES IS REALLY LOW, BUT FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED WHAT WE WANT DO IS RAISE THAT RATE. THEY ARE STILL GOING PAY BASED ON VALUATION AND WE APPRECIATE THE DISCOUNTS THAT THE MAYOR PROPOSED FOR LOCAL RESIDENTS BECAUSE VALUATIONS ARE STILL GOING UP. WE WANT TO BROADEN THE GAP FOR THE DIFFERENT TIERS. SO THE SECOND TIER FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED WE WOULD LIKE TO BE 1.5 MILLION AND 1 DOLLAR TO \$5 MILLION. AND BROADEN THAT GAP AGAIN, THESE ARE LOCAL OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES.\r\n\r\n>> TIME. >> AND OVER 5 MILLION. SO AT THE SECOND TIER, WE ARE OKAY AGAIN WITH ALL OF THE RATES WE JUST WANT TO WIDEN THAT GAP FOR LOCAL HOMEOWNERS. NOW A NON-OWNER OCCUPIED THIS IS WITH -- >> PAM,? YES. >> CAN YOU CONCLUDE IN 30 SECONDS? >> OKAY. YES.\r\n\r\nSO NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED WE FEEL QUE WITH MAKE MONEY FOR HOUSING AND WE WOULD LIKE TO LEAVE THE TIERS AS THEY ARE, INCREASE THE RATES ON TIER 1 TO \$8, THE SECOND TIER TO \$12, AND THE THIRD TIER TO \$18. WHICH WILL HELP REDUCE OUTSIDE INVESTMENT, AND HELP US RAISE ADDITIONAL MONEY. SO WE CAN HELP SUBSIDIZE AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND RENTALS . >> THANK YOU. QUESTIONS, MEMBERS? MEMBER PALTIN. >> CAN YOU REPEAT THAT LAST ONE? WHERE THE THIRD TIER WAS \$18, WHAT WAS THE FIRST AND SECOND TIERS AND THE SPREAD YES, IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE. WE WERE -- BECAUSE AGAIN THESE ARE NON-OWNER OCCUPIED THE \$1 MILLION AND UNDER WE'RE KEEPING -- THE MAYOR KEPT THE RATES THE SAME.\r\n\r\nWE WOULD LIKE TO GENERATE MORE REVENUE. SO WE'RE LOOKING FOR \$1 MILLION TO BE \$8 WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF \$2.13. WE WOULD LIKE THE \$1 MILLION TO \$3 MILLION AS HE PROPOSED TO BE \$12, WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF \$3.50 AND OVER \$3 MILLION TO BE \$18 WHICH IS AN INCREASE OF \$4 OVER WHAT IS PROPOSED. >> THANK YOU. AND THEN WERE YOU COMPLETELY FINISHED WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS BEFORE THE TIME RAN OUT? >> NO, BUT IF I MAY SHARE JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE? AND I WILL BE BRIEF. BASICALLY, AND ALSO I WANT TO NOTE THAT AGAIN, IF LOCALS ARE RENTING OUT THEIR HOMES FOR AS LONG-TERM RENTALS THEY WOULD NOT FALL UNDER THIS NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED CATEGORY THEY WOULD FALL UNDER THE LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE RENTAL CATEGORY.\r\n\r\nSO THEY STILL WOULD HAVE FAVORABLE PRICING. BUT THE GOAL IS TO REALLY LOOK AT NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED THEY DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY IN THE SAME WAY LOCAL OWNERS CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY. IF SOMEBODY IS OCCUPYING THEIR UNIT SIX MONTHS OR MORE, THEN THEY ARE OWNER-OCCUPIED. SO WE'RE REALLY TALKING ABOUT

RAISING THE RATES ON PEOPLE WHO TRULY AREN'T LIVING HERE FULL-TIME, NOT CONTRIBUTING IN THE SAME WAY, SPENDING THEIR DOLLARS AND OF COURSE AS YOU MENTIONED EARLIER, RESTAURANTS AND RETAIL ARE AND GROCERIES AND SUPPORTING LOCAL AGRICULTURE IN THE SAME WAY, BUYING LOCAL PRODUCE. SO THIS IS WHERE WE FIND A WAY TO RAISE MORE MONEY, AND THEN HELP SUBSIDIZE OWNER-OCCUPIED A LITTLE BIT MORE. BUT STILL GARNERING CONSIDERABLE INCOME. NOW AGAIN I DON'T HAVE THE REAL PROPERTY TAX DATA TO SHOW HOW MANY UNITS ARE IN EACH TIER AND ALL OF THE DETAILS ON THAT.\r\n\r\nWE WOULD BE HAPPY TO HELP WORK ON THAT, BUT I KNOW THAT OBVIOUSLY IS GOING TO BE CONSIDERATION AS WE LOOK AT DOING THIS TO LOOK AT THE OFFSETS OF HOW MUCH ADDITIONAL MONEY WE WOULD BE MAKING WITH THESE TIERS WHEN YOU LOOK AT HOW MANY PROPERTIES FALL UNDER THE DIFFERENT VALUATIONS. AND THANK YOU FOR ASKING THE QUESTION. >> THANK YOU. AND I'M SORRY, I JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY, BECAUSE I WAS A LITTLE TINY BIT DISTRACTED DID YOU HAVE RECOMMENDATION FOR TIME SHARE? DID YOU SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT? >> NO. WE ARE LOOKING INTO THE TIME SHARE, BUT WE WERE REALLY FOCUSED JUST ON THE OWNER OCCUPIED AND NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED RATES AT THIS TIME.\r\n\r\n>> THANK YOU. >> YOU'RE WELCOME. >> MEMBER JOHNSON. >> THANK YOU, CHAIR. GOOD EVENING, MS. TUMPAP. THANK FOR YOUR TESTIMONY.\r\n\r\nI REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUGGESTIONS, IN FACT, ONE OF THEM NAILED IT ON THE HEAD FOR ONE OF MY PROPOSALS WAS TIER 3 NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED RAISING IT UP TO \$18. SO GREAT MINDS THINK A LIKE ON THAT ONE, MS. TUMPAP. THAT IS ALL I GOT. THANK YOU SO MUCH, CHAIR. >> THANK YOU VERY MUCH. >> OKAY. THANK YOU VERY MUCH, PAM.\r\n\r\nNEXT TESTIFIER. >> THANK YOU. ALOHA. >> THE NEXT TESTIFIER IS ERIC PONG. >> IS ERIC -- AND AFTER THAT, THE NEXT TESTIFIER AFTER THAT? >> WILL BE RICHELLE THOMSON. >> GOOD EVENING.\r\n\r\nI'M ERIC PONG. I'M A LITTLE UNPREPARED. MARCY TOLD ME TO COME AND TALK TONIGHT. SO I'M A RESIDENT OF SPRECKELSVILLE THIRD GENERATION, WE HAVE OWNED OUR PROPERTY 60 YEARS AND OUR PROPERTY TAXES KEEP ON GOING UP. OUR ASSESSMENT DOUBLED THIS PAST YEAR. I THINK A RATE HIKE WOULD NOT HELP ON TOP OF ASSESSMENTS DOUBLING. SO IT'S KIND OF WHERE WE'RE AT.\r\n\r\n>> OKAY. ANYTHING ELSE? MARCY, YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT MARCY MARTIN? >> YES. >> MEMBER PALTIN? THEN MEMBER JOHNSON. >> THANK YOU, MR.\r\n\r\nPONG. >> PONG? >> I JUST WANTED TO CLARIFY, SO YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT YOUR HOME THAT YOU OWN. >> YES, OWNER-OCCUPIED. >> OKAY. >> WE OWN ONE HOME. THANK YOU THAT WAS MY CLAIR FIG QUESTION.\r\n\r\n>> MEMBER JOHNSON. >> THANK YOU, THAT WAS MY CLARIFYING QUESTION. >> MEMBER UU-HODGINS. >> I DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS WITH YOU AND WHERE YOU LIVE, BUT CAN I GIVE YOU MY CARD AND WE CAN TALK STORY. >> YES, I LIVE ON STABLE ROAD. WE HAVE BEEN THERE 60 YEARS AND WE'RE THE OLDEST RESIDENTS IN SPRECKELSVILLE. NOW WE'RE HAWAIIAN THIRD GENERATION, AND IT WILL BE THE 4TH GENERATION TO OWN THE PROPERTY.\r\n\r\nWE HAVE ONE LONG-TERM RENTAL ON OUR PROPERTY AND IF RATES GO UP, I MEAN WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO INCREASE OUR RENT, SO I MEAN IT'S JUST UNAFFORDABLE LONG-TERM RENTALS. >> OKAY. THANK YOU BEFORE YOU LEAVE I WILL HAVE MY ONE STAFF MEMBERS MEET YOU OUTSIDE AND THEN HE WILL GIVE YOU MY CARD AND MAYBE WE CAN TALK. >> THANK YOU. >> THANK YOU. >> ONE MORE QUESTION, MR. PONG.\r\n\r\nMEMBER COOK. >> THANK YOU, MR. PONG. MY CLARIFYING QUESTIONS YOU SAID YOUR ASSESSMENT DOUBLED. >> YES, SO WE QUALIFY FOR THE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND I THINK WITHOUT THE CIRCUIT BREAKER IS LIKE 6-12 AND WITH THE CIRCUIT BREAKER IT JUMPED BACK DOWN TO 6. >> MAY I ASK WHAT IT WAS AND WHAT IT BECAME? >> IT WAS 6 AND THEN IT WAS THE CIRCUIT BREAKER IS 3. >> SO THE CIRCUIT BREAKER HELPED? >> IT HELPED, BUT STILL, IF IT DOUBLES EVERY YEAR, IT DOESN'T REALLY HELP; RIGHT?\r\n\r\n>> OKAY. >> SO MY ASSESSMENT DOUBLED AND RATES GO UP, THAT IS RIDICULOUS. >> I HEAR YOU. >> SO I DON'T THINK THE RENT THAT I CAN CHARGE CAN KEEP UP WITH THAT. >> MAY I ASK WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS? IS IT BEEN KIND OF STEADY AND NOW JUST JACKED UP? >> YES.\r\n\r\n>> OKAY. >> IT'S BEEN KIND OF SAID IT STEADY AT 3, WHICH IS FINE. >> SO

MY FURTHER CLARIFYING QUESTION, HAS THERE BEEN SALES IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD? IS THERE A LOT OF PEOPLE BUYING AND SELLING AND DOING STUFF? >> YES. SO NO ONES PUTTING ON MLS, THEY ARE KNOCKING ON PEOPLE'S DOORS. SO THE LATEST SALE I THINK WAS 17, BUT IT WAS TO A MAN NAMED SCOTT HUSAN, THE FOURTH EMPLOYEE AT GOOGLE, BASICALLY KNOCKED ON THE DOOR AND SAID WHAT YOU WANT FOR YOUR PROPERTY?\r\n\r\nSO PEOPLE LIKE US, YOU KNOW, WE EAT, WHICH ISN'T FAIR, AND IT'S NOT FAIR IF HAWAIIANS ARE GOING TO GET TAXED OUT OF THEIR PROPERTY. >> I COMPLETELY AGREE. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TESTIMONY. MAY WE HAVE THE NEXT TESTIFIER. >> THE NEXT TESTIFIER IS RICHELLE THOMSON FOLLOWED BY TOM CROLY. >> MY EVERYONE RICHELLE THOMSON TESTIFYING ON MY OWN BEHALF AND WON'T LOG AS COUNTY TIME. I WANTED TO VERY BRIEFLY LET YOU KNOW ABOUT MY OWN PERSONAL SITUATION.\r\n\r\nI OWN A VACANT PEARCE OF LAND IN MAKAWAO, ZONED R-3. I'M IN THE PROCESS OF GOING THROUGH A BUILDING PERMIT PROCESS BECAUSE YOU KNOW IT'S A COUPLE OF YEARS PROBABLY MINIMUM, AND MAY NOT KNOW AND I'M NOT SURE IF YOU ALL KNOW THIS, BUT VACANT REAL PROPERTY IN THE R-3 ZONE OR ANY OF THE RESIDENTIAL ZONES IS TAXED AT NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED. SO THAT IS A REALLY HIGH TAX RATE, AND I KNOW IT'S -- I JUST WANTED YOU TO BE AWARE OF THAT, IF YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT. THE AG ZONE PROPERTY IS TAXED AT ITS UNDERLYING ZONING SO IT'S TAXED AT THE AG RATE. I BELIEVE HOTELS OWN LAND VACANT LAND IN THE HOTEL ZONE IS ALSO CHARGED HOTEL ZONE RATE. BUT RESIDENTIAL IS JUST ONE OF THOSE WEIRD ONES THAT I APPEALED IT LAST TAX SEASON, AND WAS NOT SUCCESSFUL. THE TRUE FIX IS A CHANGE TO THE MAUI COUNTY CODE TO FIGURE OUT HOW DO YOU WANT TO TAX VACANT REAL ESTATE? SO IN WHATEVER ZONE DO YOU FOLLOW ZONING OR DO YOU CREATE -- PUT IT INTO ONE OF THE TAX CLASSES SPECIFICALLY, BUT RIGHT NOW THE DEFAULT IS NON- OWNER-OCCUPIED AND IT'S A PRETTY HEFTY BILL.\r\n\r\nTHAT IS ALL I HAVE. >> MEMBER COOK. >> THANK YOU. MY CLARIFYING QUESTION, DO YOU HAVE WATER, IS THERE A WATER METER ON YOUR LOT? >> YES. >> AND HAVE YOU OWNED IT LONG? >> 2015. >> YOU DON'T QUALIFY FOR ANY EMPLOYER EXEMPTION BECAUSE THERE'S NO HOME.\r\n\r\n>> THERE'S NO HOME, YES, EXACTLY THERE'S NO HOME ON THAT PARTICULARLY PARCEL YET. >> HAVE YOU SPOKEN AND GOTTEN ANY ADVICE OR SUGGESTION FOR CHANGE? >> IN MY OLD JOB I WOULD HAVE HELPED ONE OF THE COUNCIL MEMBERS DRAFT AN AMENDMENT TO THE MAUI COUNTY CODE TO FIX IT. >> OKAY. >> THAT IS THE TRUE FIX. >> THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR TESTIMONY. YOUR TESTIMONY.\r\n\r\n>> MEMBER UU-HODGINS. >> TO CLARIFY IN MY OLD JOB I WOULD HAVE HELPED YOU GET A PERMIT, BUT IN MY CURRENT JOB I CAN STILL HELP YOU GET A PERMIT. CAN YOU PLEASE LET ME KNOW AND WE CAN TALK-STORY. >> THANK YOU. >> VERY. >> ANY OTHER QUESTIONS? IF NOT, NEXT TESTIFIER.\r\n\r\n>> NEXT TESTIFIER IS TOM CROLY, FOLLOWED BY GARY SALDANA. >> OKAY, TOM. >> ALOHA, COUNCIL. YOU KNOW THAT YOU WERE GOING TO HEAR ME HERE. I HEARD YOU ALL GIGGLE WHEN MY NAME CAME UP. I HOPE THAT YOU GOT THE MESSAGES THAT I SENT TODAY, WITH SOME TESTIMONY, AND IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS FOR ME ABOUT THAT TESTIMONY, I WOULD BE HAPPY TO FIELD THEM NOW. RIGHT NOW WE'RE TALKING ABOUT THE RATES ACROSS THE BOARD.\r\n\r\nAND I WANT TO MAKE ONE THING REALLY CLEAR, IF I HAVEN'T MADE IT CLEAR IN ALL MY OTHER TESTIMONY, US 146 OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTS OF MAUI DESERVE TO BE TREATED LIKE EVERY OTHER OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENT OF MAUI AND WE DESERVE THE SAME TAX RATE AS THE OWNER-OCCUPANTS. WE WILL NOT GET OUR HOMEOWNER EXEMPTION. YOU CAN'T RESTORE THAT WITHOUT CHANGING THE CODE, BUT YOU CAN FIX THE ERROR IF YOU ASK ME, THAT HAS BEEN MADE BY DISCRIMINATING AGAINST US, AND ACTING LIKE WE ARE NOT RESIDENTS OF MAUI, LIVING IN OUR OWN HOMES AS EVERYONE ELSE GETS TREATED IN THAT WAY. SO I HOPE THAT YOU HAVE HEARD THAT. THE OTHER RATES, I REALLY LIKED WHAT I HEARD PAM SAY ABOUT CHANGING THE FIRST TIER IN OWNER-OCCUPIED TO \$1.5 MILLION. I AGREE WITH THAT FROM THE STANDPOINT OF MY PROPERTY, WHICH IS A NICE PROPERTY IN MAUI MEADOWS, BUT NOT A LUXURY PROPERTY HAS NOT GONE UP TO AN ASSESSMENT OF \$1.75 MILLION. AND MY TAXES HAVE

DOUBLED IN THE PAST COUPLE OF YEARS.\r\n\r\nSO WE REALLY SHOULD BE PROTECTING PEOPLE'S HOMES WHERE THEY LIVE, AND THAT FIRST TIER SHOULD BE DESIGNED TO DO THAT. THE LAST TIER I AGREE WITH HER THAT SHOULD BE \$5 MILLION AND OVER FOR BOTH OWNER-OCCUPIED AND THE OTHER CATEGORIES. THAT TIER, WELL-BEING I THINK YOU DO HAVE A RIGHT TO HIT THAT TIER HARD, IF YOU WANT, OKAY? WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HIT WITH IN THE COMMERCIALIZED RESIDENTIAL MIGHT SEEM IT'S NOT SO BAD, BUT IT'S DOUBLED MY PROPERTY TAXES IN THE PAST TWO YEARS. LAST YEAR WAS A 30% INCREASE I FACED. AND I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT THE HOTELS ARE WEATHERING THE STORM BY RAISING THEIR RATES. I DIDN'T DO THE SAME, BUT I CAN TELL YOU THAT, I HAD EMPTY B&B ROOMS IN MY HOUSE FOR THE LAST MONTH, NOBODY, ZERO, NO BUSINESS.\r\n\r\nMY BUSINESS IS OFF 40% SINCE THE FIRES, OKAY? SO I'M NOT CRYING THE BLUES TO YOU, BUT I'M SAYING WE DO HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM HERE WITH VISITORS AREN'T COMING ANY MORE. LOTS OF CANCELATIONS FROM THE CANADIANS AND EUROPEANS AND IT'S HARD TO GET BY. SO PLEASE, DON'T TAX ME OUT OF MY HOME. LET SET THE RATE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF MAUI WHO LIVE IN THEIR OWN HOMES UNIFORMLY ACROSS THE BOARD AND I WOULD APPRECIATE YOU DOING THAT. I ALSO SENT YOU SOMETHING LATER TODAY ABOUT IF YOU DO FIND YOU'RE SHORT OKAY? LOOK AT ONE PENNY, LOOK AT HOW MUCH REVENUE YOU CAN RAISE BY JUST ONE PENNY MORE IN THE RATES ACROSS THE BOARD, OKAY?\r\n\r\nYOU CAN GET ALMOST A MILLION DOLLARS OUT OF ONE PENNY. 10 CENTS YOU CAN GET ALMOST \$8 MILLION OR MORE THAN \$8 MILLION OUT OF RAISING THE RATES \$0.10. THAT WON'T BANKRUPT ANYBODY, BUT TAKING MY RATE AND TRIPLING IT FROM WHAT I WOULD BE AS A HOMEOWNER, THAT DOES BANKRUPT US. SO PLEASE HEAR MY PLEA, AND DO THE RIGHT THING BY THE COMMERCIALIZED RESIDENTIAL B&B OWNERS. THANK YOU, CHAIR, FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY. >> THANK YOU, TOM. QUESTIONS? NO QUESTIONS.\r\n\r\nTHANK YOU VERY MUCH. >> ALOHA. >> ALOHA. >> CHAIR, NEXT TESTIFIER IS GARY SALDANA, . >> TO BE FOLLOWED BY? >> EVA TANTILLO, WHO IS THE LAST TESTIFIER. >> GARY, ARE YOU THERE? >> I'M HERE.\r\n\r\nALOHA. >> ALOHA. >> ALOHA, COUNCIL MEMBERS. MY NAME IS GARY SALDANA, I'M TESTIFYING AS AN INDIVIDUAL TONIGHT, I'M TESTIFYING AS A PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER. IN THE MAYOR'S BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS HE NOTES REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF AND NO INCREASES ARE PROPOSED FOR ANY CATEGORY WITH OWNER OCCUPIED PROPERTIES SEEING THE REDUCTION. WITH ALL DUE RESPECT, THIS STATEMENT BY THE MAYOR IS TOTALLY MISLEADING. EVEN THOUGH THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR OWNER-OCCUPIED IS BEING PROPOSED TO BE REDUCED, HE SAYS NOTHING ABOUT HOW OUR ASSESSED VALUES HAVE SKYROCKETED OVER THE LAST YEAR, WHICH IN TURN RESULTS IN REAL PROPERTY TAX INCREASES, NOT REAL PROPERTY TAX RELIEF.\r\n\r\nFOR EXAMPLE, MY ASSESSMENT INCREASED 36% FROM LAST YEAR. WITH THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX RATE, OUR TAX WILL INCREASE 46% WHICH TRANSLATES TO NEARLY A \$500 INCREASE. FURTHERMORE, I'M NOT THE ONLY VICTIM OF HUGE INCREASES IN ASSESSMENT VALUE AS YOU HAVE HEARD TONIGHT HOMEOWNERS HAVE EXPERIENCED SUCH INCREASES AS 50% TO 70% IN ONE YEAR. THE ASSESSMENT INCREASES MAKES NO SENSE TO ME, BECAUSE IN MARCH 2024, THE MEDIAN HOME PRICE WAS \$1.29 MILLION ACCORDINGLY IN MARCH OF 2025, THE MEDIAN HOME PRICE IS \$1.295 MILLION OVER THE LAST YEAR THE MEDIAN PRICE OF A SINGLE-FAMILY HOME DECREASED BY A NEGATIVE .3%. YET, DURING THAT SAME PERIOD, MY ASSESSMENT INCREASED 36%. HOW IS THIS FAIR? FURTHERMORE, WITH POTENTIAL COST INCREASES IN EVERY ASPECT OF LIFE RESULTING FROM THE PROPOSED TARIFFS THE ESCALATION IN REAL PROPERTY TAX WILL MAKE THE ALREADY HIGH COST OF LIVING IN MA I OVERBURDENSOME TO WORKING-CLASS STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET. IN ADDITION, THE MAYOR'S INCREASE IN -- DECREASE IN PROPERTY TAX RATE, THE PROPOSED CERTIFIED REVENUE FOR FY'26 OWNER-OCCUPIED CATEGORY IS PROPOSED TO INCREASE \$6.4 MILLION OVER THE FY'25 CERTIFIED REVENUE, WHICH TRANSLATES TO A 17% INCREASE IN REVENUE FROM OUR OWNER-OCCUPIED RESIDENTS. WHAT MAKES THIS PAINFUL IS THE PROPOSED HOTEL-RESORT CERTIFIED REVENUE FOR THE SAME PERIOD IS INCREASING ONLY \$3 MILLION, WHICH

TRANSLATES TO A MERE 6% INCREASE IN CERTIFIED REVENUE.\r\n\r\nI ASK THE QUESTION WHY ARE LOCALS BEING PENALIZED? WHAT I WOULD ASK IS THE COUNCIL TO RESPECTFULLY INVESTIGATE WHY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE HAS DECIDED TO MAKE UP FOR LOST TIME BY INCREASING OUR ASSESSMENTS BY SUCH A DRASTIC AMOUNT IN ONE YEAR, VERSUS GRADUAL INCREASES OVER A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME? AND FINALLY I WOULD ALSO REQUEST THE COUNCIL TO CONSIDER LOWERING THE OWNER-OCCUPIED TAX RATE, OR INCREASING THE HOMEOWNER'S EXEMPTION TO OFFSET THE MAYOR'S HUGE INCREASES IN ASSESSED VALUES. THANK YOU FOR THIS TIME. >> THANK YOU, GARY. QUESTIONS? MEMBERS?\r\n\r\nIF NOT, THANK YOU VERY MUCH. >> CHAIR THE NEXT TESTIFIER IS EVA TANTILLO. >> HELLO. >> CAN'T HEAR YOU. >> LOOKS LIKE YOU ARE MUTED ON YOUR END. THERE'S A MICROPHONE BUTTON AT THE TOP OF YOUR SCREEN AND IT MIGHT HAVE A LINE ACROSS IT AND YOU JUST NEED TO CLICK ON THAT TO RELEASE THE LINE. >> DOESN'T SEE IT?\r\n\r\n>> DO YOU WANT TO EXPLAIN TO HER HOW SHE CAN CALL IN. >> IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TRY CALLING IN, I CAN GIVE YOU THAT INFORMATION? IF YOU HAVE GOT A PEN? SO YOU CAN CALL IN 808-977-4067, AND ENTER THE CODE 234794559. AND THEN POUND SIGN. >> I DON'T THINK SHE WROTE DOWN THAT PART. >> I WILL READ IT AGAIN. >> SO IF YOU WOULD LIKE, YOU CAN MAIL IN YOUR TESTIMONY.\r\n\r\nOKAY? OR EMAIL IT TO US. OKAY. VERY GOOD. THANK YOU VERY MUCH. >> THE EMAIL ADDRESS TO SEND THAT TO IS COUNTY.CLERK@MAUICOUNTY.US >> CAN YOU REPEAT THAT ONE MORE TIME. >> COUNTY.\r\n\r\nCLERK@MAUICOUNTY.US. >> DO WE HAVE ANOTHER TESTIFIER? >> CHAIR, THERE'S NO ONE ELSE SIGNED UP TO TESTIFY. SO WE'LL GO AHEAD AND GIVE LAST CALL FOR TESTIMONY. IF ANYBODY ON THE MEETING ON TEAMS WISHES TO TESTIFY, PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND. ANYBODY IN THE CHAMBERS, MAKE YOUR WAY TO THE PODIUM. CHAIR SEEING NONE, WE'LL COUNT DOWN, 3, 2, 1. THERE'S NO ONE ELSE TO TESTIFY.\r\n\r\n>> MEMBERS, ANY OBJECTIONS TO CLOSING PUBLIC TESTIMONY? OKAY, THIS MEETING IS RECESSED UNTIL, LET ME CHECK -- -- -- UNTIL MAY 13TH AT 11:00 A.M. >> THIS MEETING IS IN RECESS. [GAVEL] THANK YOU, MEMBERS. DRIVE CAREFULLY. GET A GOOD NIGHT'S REST.