

Resolution 21-192 Testimony

MISC. COM. 575

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, November 10, 2021

SUBJECT: Resolution 21-192, Charter Amendment Affordable Housing Fund -
OPPOSED

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Resolution 21-192, which would place a charter amendment question on next year's ballot asking voters whether annual real property taxes that go into the Affordable Housing Fund should be doubled from the current .5% to 1%. I oppose this resolution.

Real property taxes are the foundation of our city funding. Rather than taking more away from that foundation, priorities should be set and appropriates made accordingly.

Please vote "no" on this resolution.



Honolulu County Republican Party

725 Kapiolani Blvd, C-105

Honolulu, HI 96813

November 8, 2021

Honolulu City Council
City and County of Honolulu
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Waters and Council Members,

RE: Resolution 21-192 Initiating Amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition), As Amended, Relating to the Affordable Housing Fund.

The Honolulu County Republican Party **OPPOSES** Resolution 21-192.

The resolution states, that the following question be placed on the 2022 general election ballot:

Shall the Revised City Charter be amended to increase the mandatory percentage of the City's estimated real property tax revenues to be appropriated annually for deposit into the Affordable Housing Fund from one-half of one percent to one percent?

In the September 9, 2021 meeting of the council, Councilmember Elefante stated, "...the measure would increase the Affordable Housing Fund from 1/2 percent to 1 percent and there would be no increase in real property taxes." If this is truly not a property tax increase which of the other 18 funds in the budget will be decreased by a corresponding percentage?

Economic experts are predicting our economy will take years to recover from the economic damage caused by the coronavirus lockdowns. Increasing the distribution of funds to the Affordable Housing Fund without decreasing the distribution to another fund in an equal amount is, in our opinion, budgeting kabuki theater. Unless this resolution is in preparation for a future property tax increase.

We respectfully urge you to **OPPOSE** Resolution 21-192, until more clarity is provided why this increase is required in more specificity.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brett Kulbis".

Brett Kulbis
Chairman
Honolulu County Republican Party
chair@oahugop.com