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**Testimony of Faith Action HousingNOW!
Regarding an Empty Homes Tax,
before the Oahu Real Property Tax Advisory Committee
on December 29, 2021 at 10:00am**

Faith Action for Community Equity is an organization of religious and community organizations driven by a deep spiritual commitment to improving the quality of life for all the people of Hawaii by addressing the root causes of social inequities.

Faith Action HousingNOW! supports an Empty Homes Tax and requests ORPTAC to approve the Interim Report and Initial Recommendations of the 2021 ORPTAC to the City Council, in regard to the proposed Empty Homes Tax. (item VI (1) on the meeting agenda).

The proposed Empty Homes Tax re can help address the major crises in affordable housing and homelessness that are endangering our entire community. This tax can assist by:

- Increasing our supply of housing stock by incentivizing owners of tens of thousands of vacant housing units to convert them into homes for Oahu residents
- Discouraging outside investment & speculation that cause high housing costs
- Creating dedicated tax revenues for affordable housing & homelessness solutions.

To those of you serving on the ORPTAC, thank you for helping support new solutions and bold changes to improve the quality of our community.

Submitted on behalf of Faith Action HousingNOW!

By Ellen Godbey Carson

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