

Bill 49 (2021) Testimony

MISC. COM. 23

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 9:12 AM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Edward Jones
Phone	
Email	q@edjonesusa.com
Meeting Date	01-26-2022
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	Bill 41 - Bill 49 - Bill 2 - Bill 8
Your position on the matter	Oppose
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

TO: Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

DATE: Wednesday, January 26, 2022

SUBJECT: Bill 49 (2021), Vacant Homes Classification for Real Property Tax Purposes
OPPOSED

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

Thank you for allowing testimony on Bill 49, which would create a new real property tax classification called “vacant residential.”

Several years ago, a similar proposal was made, and I initially thought such a classification would be a good idea. Now that I understand our real property tax system better, however, I do not support this.

First of all, the bill requires affidavits from property owners stating that their properties were not vacant for more than 180 days during the previous fiscal year. This increases the amount of paperwork for both the city and taxpayers.

In addition, if a property owner happens to miss the notification for filing an affidavit, the related taxes on that property will increase substantially.

With this new classification, Honolulu would have 11 classes for real property tax purposes. Simple systems are easier to administer and less costly.

I therefore do not support the addition of yet another classification.