

**RES23-033
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 293

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 7, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 1

Oppose: 4

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Paul Nachtigall	Email: paulnachtigall333@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 3, 2023 @ 05:19 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Chair Waters and Distinguished Council Members,</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I oppose this amendment because while at simple face value it seems to assist working families by lowering the tax rate on some, it may well do the opposite. Families with children need to rent larger homes. Larger homes have a larger assessed value, especially recently, in typical family areas like Kailua and the North shore. Those larger rental homes will be taxed higher under this amendment. Long term rental landlords must pass the tax increase along to their renters. The amendment would reduce taxes for those renting smaller places but cause a considerable property tax increase on larger homes. How can long-term family renters save to buy a home when they must absorb the higher property taxes than the owner occupant next door? Please think a little deeper about what this amendment will do to long term renters in residential neighborhoods. It will raise rents! Please oppose this amendment because while assisting one group, it heavily burdens renting families. Please wait and develop fair property tax changes that ENCOURAGE LONG-TERM AFFORDABLE housing.</p>		
Name: Michael McCurdy	Email: hammajang@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 09:15 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support the current approved version of this Resolution. I DO NOT support the TW1 proposed draft; it makes the already hyper-progressive Residential A tax rates even more progressive, and requires owners of Residential A properties with assessed values over \$1.555M to subsidize those with assessed values just over \$1M. To the extent such a subsidy is justified, it should be borne by all owners.</p>		
Name: jason B	Email: jsen808@hotmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 08:58 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose this bill because council members expected to maintain a job while doing council duties part time. They didn't expect to leave their regular jobs so I feel they should be able to continue their side jobs.</p>		
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 02:54 PM
Name: Maheshi Kae	Email: maheshihawaii@yahoo.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 06:11 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha. That this city council is willing to accept a 64% pay raise while most of the citizens of Honolulu are struggling to make ends meet on minimum wages is outrageous and sinful. Nothing can validate this huge increase while so much of Honolulu suffers homelessness, on the brink of homelessness or afraid of becoming homeless as rents go through the roof and wages stagnate How can you even think this would be ok, or is it you just don't care. Please be pono and stop the harmful pilikia. Maheshi kae</p>		
Name: Sharon Gomes	Email: divide.fancy.00@icloud.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 7, 2023 @ 09:12 AM
<p>Testimony:</p>		

A 64% raise is ridiculous for members of a higher council that get name recognition, higher opportunities, and perks above and below. The locals are struggling as it is and the thought of taking hard earned working money that already is ridiculously taxed is why there is little support for those supposedly in charge.



June 7, 2023

9 a.m.

Honolulu City Council Chambers

To: Honolulu City and County Council

Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair

Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: Resolution 2023-33 — DETERMINING THE REAL PROPERTY TAX RATES FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [Resolution 2023-33](#), which would set the property tax rates for fiscal 2024.

As currently written, all the rates would remain the same as last year. However, Council Chair Tommy Waters has proposed an amendment intended to help renters that would decrease the rates on the first tier of Residential A homes from \$4.50 to \$4.00 per \$1,000 and increase rates on the second tier from \$10.50 to \$11.40 per \$1,000.

Residential A homes are non-owner occupied properties worth at least \$1 million. Many of them tend to be long-term rental properties, so this proposed rate change could have a beneficial effect for renters, although its net reduction in tax revenues would be about only \$68,500.

We look forward to discussing the Residential A issue further once the Council passes the fiscal 2024 budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii