

BILL014(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 295

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

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

Support: 1

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 2

Name: Michael McCurdy	Email: hammajang@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 5, 2023 @ 08:47 AM
Testimony: Support included proposed amendment TW1.		
Name: Ted Kefalas	Email: tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org	Zip: 96813
Representing: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 02:53 PM
Name: Elena Jones	Email: elenaj1966@outlook.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 6, 2023 @ 11:01 PM
Testimony: Why bother with a \$300 exemption for property taxes when you will just take it away from somewhere else to pay for your raises. My mother is always worried about being able to pay her bills and losing the house that she worked so hard for. A lot of kupunas are worried about the same thing. She is 83 yrs old and 75% Hawaiian. We are all struggling to make ends meet. Help the people that are struggling instead of taking money away from them. Give us a true tax exemption without the burden of having to pay for your raises.		



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: Bill 14 (2023) — RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [Bill 14 \(2023\)](#), which would provide all Oahu homeowners a one-time tax credit of \$300.

Because of higher property assessments, property tax collections are projected to increase by more than \$212 million in fiscal year 2024. Hawaii residents already pay some of the highest taxes in the entire United States,¹ including income, excise, property and other taxes, so the Council's efforts to provide property tax relief are greatly appreciated.

Mayor Rick Blangiardi's proposed one-time \$300 property tax credit would apply to more than 150,000 Oahu homeowners, saving them a total of about \$45.5 million.²

Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina's floor draft would increase the value of the credit to \$350, which would provide roughly \$53.1 million in tax relief. Frankly, the Institute prefers the \$350 amount, but ultimately we support either option.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Merrilee Gasser, "[Hawaii taxpayers shell out more than \\$5,500 in state and local taxes](#)," The Center Square, March 29, 2023.

² "[City unveils \\$3.4B budget that includes property tax relief plan](#)," Hawaii News Now, March 3, 2023.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii