

WAIANAE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 36

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September 5, 2023

City Council Chair Tommy Waters 530 South King Street #202 Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Councilmember Esther Kiaaina

Councilmember Radiant Cordero

Councilmember Calvin Say

Councilmember Val Okimoto

Councilmember Andria Tupola

Councilmember Matt Weyer

Councilmember Tyler Dos Santos-Tam

Councilmember Augie Tulba

RE: Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24 Letter regarding City Council – City and County of Honolulu Bill 39 (2023) CD1 Relating to Real Property Taxation

Aloha from the Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24,

Subject: Strong Opposition to City Council – City and County of Honolulu Bill 39 (2023) CD1 Relating to Real Property Taxation

We express our resolute opposition to City Council – City and County of Honolulu Bill 39 (2023) CD1 Relating to Real Property Taxation. After careful consideration and extensive discussions within our board and the Waianae community, it is evident that this bill poses severe concerns and potential adverse impacts on our district.

Our primary concerns regarding Bill 39 (2023) CD1 include:

- 1. Incentives for Landfills: Granting a total absolute property tax exemption for residential real property within a 1-mile radius of an active landfill or those determined by the city to be impacted by a landfill raises the troubling possibility of attracting more landfills to our district, which could detrimentally affect our community's well-being.
- 2. **Fiscal Implications**: We are deeply concerned about the significant revenue loss that this bill may cause, as indicated by the Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS) opposition. Such a loss could impose an unjust financial burden on others within our community and beyond.

DEPT. COM. 653

3. Impact on Property Values and Local Buyers: This bill's provisions may inadvertently drive-up property values in affected areas, potentially pricing local buyers out of the market, exacerbating social inequality, and diminishing the affordability of homes for our residents.

Given these substantial concerns, the Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24 unanimously opposes Bill 39 (2023) CD1. We believe that it is our responsibility to safeguard our community's well-being, economic stability, and social equity.

We urge the City Council to reconsider this bill and engage in meaningful dialogue with our community to understand the consequences and concerns it raises fully. We are committed to working collaboratively to find alternative solutions that protect our environment, maintain fiscal responsibility, and promote social equity in Waianae.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, and we look forward to a thoughtful consideration of our opposition to Bill 39 (2023) CD1.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Hoomanawanui

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Waianae Neighborhood Board No. 24

Oahu's Neighborhood Board system - Established 1973