

Bill 46
Testimony

7 December, 2024

**Tommy Waters
District 4 Councilmember
Council Chair**

Dear Councilman Waters

RE: Empty Homes Tax.. as amended

As senior citizens who have worked so hard all our lives, sacrificing and saving, just to afford a second home where we can enjoy our American dream, we are alarmed about the Empty Homes tax.

We are now using it regularly, but periodically, sharing and lending to family and friends as well.

We were very heartened to see that you will NOT be banging a heavy hit on local folks like us, just as we finally can enjoy the results of all that lifetime of dreams and hard work.

That would have been cruel, so unfair, actually un-American, and certainly not aloha.

But now we realize.... *that is just for folks who have a home-owner's exemption for a home on Oahu!*

And we, living in Hilo, with our dream second home in Honolulu, would not qualify!
This is so unfair to kamaaina, so cruel to us on neighbor islands.

Selectively banging neighbor island kamaaina is NOT a good look for you folks, not pono.

And this is after all us neighbor island folks got forced into an additional bump up in GET, because you folks wanted it to pay for your new train (which we will never ride in!) That is already hurting us all here, not helping our cost of living.

We lived in Honolulu for many years, which is why we have a condo unit there, paid off the mortgage eventually (yay!) and paid our taxes all along, and still do. But we retired to Hilo. We have extensive family and friends still in Honolulu, and travel there frequently. But not more than 6 months / year, no way.

Please extend the exemption for home owner's to ALL of Hawaii, not just Oahu.
That would be pono, and aloha.

Sorry about about our invasion from Kohala and throwing some folks off the Pali cliffs. That was long ago, please don't hold that against us still.

Warmest aloha
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