# BILL017(25)
# Testimony

**MISC. COMM. 110**

COUNCIL

**COUNCIL  Meeting**

Meeting Date: Feb 26, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 2

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Te Kefalas | tkefalas@grassrootinstitute.org | 96813 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Grassroot Institute of Hawaii | Support | Feb 25, 2025 @ 11:01 AM |

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| lynne matusow | lynnehi@aol.com | 96817 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| Self | Support | Feb 25, 2025 @ 02:32 PM |

Testimony:

Thank you councilmember Kiaaina for introducing this bill. I am one of the many residential property owners who will benefit from it. It has been some time since similar legislation was enacted and updates are required from time to time.

| Name: | Email: | Zip: |
|---|---|---|
| Choon James | choonJamesHawaii@gmail.com | 96762 |
| Representing: | Position: | Submitted: |
| CountryTalkStory | I wish to comment | Feb 26, 2025 @ 08:53 AM |

Testimony:

The efforts to talk about Property Tax issues are always appreciated.

However, small increments, although appreciated do not help many residents. Residents in many areas have experienced exponential property assessments increases as much as 54%. Unlike the condos, these properties saw increases of hundreds of thousands of dollars. Some saw increases of a million dollar even though there had been no improvements.

Again, the property assessment valuation is not appraisal standards, it appears. Land APPRECIATES. Structures/Dwelling DEPRECIATES because there is a shelf life to it. Howver, many city assessments have dwellings and Structures APPRECIATES significantly too.

There is no need to increase the county's tax rates when the PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS are climbing so quickly. HIGHER property  assessments automatically increases the tax revenues.

I continue to promote a property tax cap on our kama'aina owners who have owned their family homes for more than 20 years. I see increasingly residents who are opting to leave the islands because it's not sustainable.

Ironically, while ordinary kama'aina are struggling to pay heavy taxes, there are historical homes that continue to pay only $300.00 a year. Many of these homes are valued in the millions of dollars while Oahu neighbors are paying $20,000 per year easily,

There are lots to talk about.

Mahalo!

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Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

Feb. 26, 2025, 10 a.m.
Honolulu Hale

**To: Honolulu City Council**
**Tommy Waters, Chair**
**Matt Weyer, Vice Chair**

**From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii**
**Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns**

RE: Bill 17 (2025) — RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Weyer and other members of the Council,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **supports** Bill 17 (2025), which would increase the real property tax homeowner exemption by $20,000 for tax years beginning in fiscal 2027.

This would make the homeowner exemption $140,000 for homeowners age 64 and under and $180,000 for homeowners 65 or older.

Increasing the homeowner exemption by $20,000 would save each homeowner $70 at the current residential tax rate of $3.50 per $1,000 in assessed value.

The exemption was last increased in 2023, for tax years beginning with fiscal 2024.[1] Passing Bill 17 now would head off possible increases in property values that could occur in the next two years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

[1] Ordinance 23-33, Honolulu Records Collection, accessed Feb. 21, 2025.