Resolution 26-62
Testimony

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Sent: Sunday, April 12, 2026 7:52 AM
To: Lam, Doris
Subject: Opposition Res 16-62 Property Tax Resolution is wrong! Ag & vacant land is taxed higher than residential! WTF??? #RipOFF

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Aloha kakahiaka nui, Honorable Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council. My name is **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM**, Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party I submit this testimony in advance via email because the online system continues to block my voice. I was the **only testifier from Waiʻanae** during the height of the Kona Low storms, and I am here again because this resolution shows exactly why our people are losing faith in you. I have read **Resolution 16-62 (2026)** in full. This is the annual real property tax rate resolution for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027. Here is the plain truth in simple numbers: ### Tax Rates per $1,000 of Net Taxable Value (CD1) | Class | Tax Rate | |----------|----------| | Residential | **$3.50** | | Agricultural | **$5.70** | | Vacant Agricultural | **$8.50** | | Residential A (Tier 1) | **$4.00** | | Residential A (Tier 2) | **$11.40** | | Transient Vacation (Tier 1) | **$9.00** | | Transient Vacation (Tier 2) | **$11.50** | **This is backwards and pono-less.** You are taxing **vacant agricultural land at $8.50** — **more than twice the rate of regular residential property** ($3.50). You are taxing working agricultural land at $5.70 — still higher than residential. Meanwhile, luxury transient vacation rentals and high-value residential properties get tiered rates that often favor the wealthy. **He aliʻi ka ʻāina, he kauwā ke kanaka.** The land is the chief; we are its servants. Yet this resolution treats productive agricultural land and vacant land as cash cows to subsidize other classes, while ordinary families and small farmers get squeezed. This is not stewardship — this is greed disguised as budgeting. Who made this policy? Who decided that vacant land and ag land should be punished with higher taxes than a regular home? This is the kind of backwards thinking that drives farmers out of business, encourages land speculation, and makes housing even more unaffordable. It directly contradicts the aloha ʻāina we claim to uphold. While thousands of our ʻohana are still displaced from the Kona Low storms, roads remain broken, and cesspools overflow, you continue to protect high-end properties and tourism interests while making it more expensive for people to hold land for farming or future use. I strongly oppose **Resolution 16-62 (2026)** as written. Before you adopt these rates, I demand you: - Lower the tax rate on agricultural and vacant agricultural land to be at or below the residential rate to encourage farming and responsible land stewardship. - Remove or significantly reduce the punitive tiered increases that favor luxury and transient vacation properties. - Commit to a full review of the entire real property tax classification system so it actually supports food security, housing affordability, and aloha ʻāina instead of punishing productive use of the ʻāina. The Aloha Spirit (HRS 5-7.5) is not optional. It requires you to coordinate mind and heart for the good of others. Right now this resolution shows no heart for the farmers and small landowners and no mind for the long-term health of our food security and ʻāina. Do not adopt this resolution as is. Fix it. Show the people of Honolulu that you serve the ʻāina and the ʻohana first — not special interests and easy revenue. **E hoʻomaikaʻi kākou** — but only if you do what is pono today. Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana. The people are watching. **Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM** Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I. Chairman, Ohana Unity Party **A hui hou** — Until we meet again on these sacred floors. -