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Sent: Tuesday, February 08, 2011 1:43 AM
To:
Cc: kiersten@historichawaii.org
Subject: Budget Committee Testimony

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Aloha:

We're the owners of a home currently on the State Historic Register and getting a property tax break because of that. We're certainly willing to pay more if that's the City Council's majority on that.

But I ask for your consideration to keep the tax quite low. We applied in order to maintain our only-remaining-intact Hal Whitaker home as something to see in the years ahead. The upkeep cost is substantial and we are both retired. All other Whitaker homes have been torn down or rebuilt. His are mid-century, known for incorporating Japanese architecture, wood louvers and no air conditioning, large open decks, flat roofs, sliding doors and open- beam ceilings. Nothing elaborate, showy. Very Hawaii. Very little of that left.

Redwood replacement, oak floor replacement, regular staining — this is not cheap but we've opted to do that rather than diminish this architectural treasure selected by the DLNR for preservation.

We're not exaggerating. Ours is something to see and we invite your committee members to visit as part of their deliberations. I think you'll agree that this property under a massive banyan tree should be preserved for posterity and that only some tax help can guarantee that.

Thank you for your consideration.

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