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CITY COUNCIL
HONOLULU, HAWAII

I disagree with the proposals to begin taxing homes whether they are owner-occupied, second homes, long-term or short-term rentals when the value of the home goes over \$1 million dollars. Our tax structure ALREADY highly taxes those in higher-income brackets. The disparity between the poor and those "making it" in Hawaii is already addressed via income taxes. The idea of taxing the "rich bastards" further via property taxes is offensive because you do not know the real circumstances of the individuals who own a second home and there are many variables. If a family has held property for a long time - what was once modest can now be quite pricey - just based on land value alone. Some families may inherit a property and want to keep it - should they be "punished" for this? Owners that rent their homes are ALREADY paying taxes on the rental income. Higher taxes on rental units will be passed on to renters and instead of targeting the "rich bastards" - you ultimately target those who may least be able to afford the rent increase. Making housing LESS affordable in Hawaii is NOT the answer to our financial problems. Budgeting and money management is what our city needs, not higher taxes.

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