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CITY COUNCIL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII

Dear Real Property Tax Advisory Commission,

Please allow me to offer a few thoughts on the upcoming Residential A Tax Hike for 2nd Home or Investment Property. My main objection to the hike is that it is "unfair". Tax raising types are always concerned about fairness, or so they say. This tax hike is an attack on the "rich", it is not a way of collecting more fees for more services used, as second home owners in Hawaii use very little of our infrastructure and City services. They do, however, contribute more by way of income to the state of Hawaii, by the purchase of their homes, and the goods and services they then acquire here. As well, by raising property taxes, in general, to those whose homes are worth 1 million or over, the government in Hawaii does not seem to realize that people who make a lot of money spend a lot too, and it goes to restaurants, car dealers, landscapers, etc. which create jobs and often use much less of city services (especially since they usually don't use the public schools or prison cells) than the protected poor. I love Hawaii I was born and raised here, my ancestors are from Hawaii. I hate to see it go the way of many small island nations who have over taxed their citizens, ending up being a place of very very rich and very very poor. Reward the money makers, believe me, the money circulates and will find it's way back to the City and State of Hawaii in myriads of ways. Particularly punishing tax hikes serve no one, as unintended consequences of this kind of third world economics is yesterday's way of grabbing wealth, it backfires in the end.

Mahalo,

Rob Burns