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**From:** Lorrain Burgess [lorrain@hawaiimagazine.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, February 13, 2006 2:05 PM  
**To:**  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Council Meeting/Public Hearing Testimony

Property Tax

I am not opposed for paying a reasonable tax on my property in exchange for necessary services. That is a fair exchange just like it is a fair exchange to pay my grocer for the food necessary to feed my family. When the grocer raises prices on certain items, I opt for other items that are within my budget. When the city raises property tax, I have no other option to be able to stay within my budget AND stay in my home.

Our system of property tax rates is the only area in life in which there are no options yet it involves one of the most important elements of our lives, our homes. When homeowners establish their roots in a neighborhood by choosing to make this their HOME, their tax rate should not be affected by the sales of other homes in the neighborhood. These deeply rooted HOME owners have no financial gain from OTHER real estate transactions in the neighborhood. Why should they be asked to pay a tax based on the value gained by others?

Why?

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