
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO EXAMINE AND ADOPT
A MORE EQUITABLE PROPERTY TAX SYSTEM BASED ON THE PURCHASE
PRICE RATHER THAN THE VALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY.

1 WHEREAS, property taxes, administered and collected by the
2 City and County of Honolulu, are based on the valuation of the
3 property being taxed; and
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5 WHEREAS, county property tax assessments are based on the
6 market value, recent sales history, and improvements to the
7 property being taxed; and
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9 WHEREAS, while a property owner can control the condition
10 and maintenance of a property, a property owner has no control
11 over real estate market forces and the sales of property in the
12 neighborhood which, in some cases can dramatically increase real
13 property tax valuation by more than twenty per cent in a very
14 short period; and
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16 WHEREAS, in some areas of the State investors and non-
17 residents have purchased second or vacation homes in
18 neighborhoods with longtime residents and caused property
19 valuation to skyrocket to the detriment of many homeowners--
20 especially retirees on fixed incomes; and
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22 WHEREAS, to preserve the lifestyle and sense of community
23 with residents who have no intention of selling their homes, and
24 to provide relief for homeowners struggling to keep pace with
25 the State's high cost of living, a more equitable property tax
26 system based on the purchase price of the home is needed; now,
27 therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
30 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
31 of 2009, that the City and County of Honolulu is requested to



1 examine and adopt a more equitable property tax assessment
2 system that is based upon the purchase price rather than the
3 valuation of the real property being taxed; and
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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
6 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of
7 Honolulu, the Chairperson of the Honolulu City Council, and the
8 Administrator of the Real Property Assessment Division of the
9 City and County of Honolulu.

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OFFERED BY: _____



MAR 17 2009

