

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

LATE TESTIMONY



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County of Hawai'i

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE - REAL PROPERTY TAX

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March 16, 2011

The Honorable Jerry L. Chang, Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 435
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Proposed SB655, SD1 – Relating to Conveyance Tax

Dear Mr. Chang:

The County of Hawai'i supports SB655, SD1, which requires the Director of Taxation to provide the real property assessment division of each county with an image of all certificates of conveyance filed with the Bureau of Conveyances.

The County of Hawai'i currently receives scanned copies of the certificates via a private source on a twice a month basis as it is impractical for an outer island to physically pick up these certificates on a regular basis in Honolulu. This source, while it has been reliable in the past, can become unavailable due to legal issues or other concerns and would have to be replaced by a more costly and cumbersome method of obtaining this data. Since the Department of Taxation has already implemented scanning of these documents, it would be extremely beneficial for the counties to receive digital copies of these conveyance records. These documents contain information that would enable the counties to promptly track recorded ownership, encumbrances, restrictions, uses, and sales prices of real property for the purpose of determining real property tax assessments.

We understand that the director of taxation may not always be able to comply with the ten day requirement. As a compromise, the County is willing to amend the ten day requirement to twenty-one days. This would be comparable to the length of time within which we are currently receiving the certificates.

Your consideration and approval of this bill is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Stanley A. Sitko
Administrator

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