

# **SB 655**

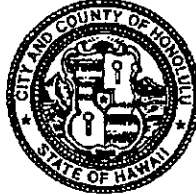
## **RELATING TO CONVEYANCE TAX.**

Requires the director of taxation to provide the administrator of each county's real property assessment division with an image of all certificates of conveyances filed with the bureau of conveyances within ten days after the end of each week.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FISCAL SERVICES  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DIVISION  
842 BETHEL STREET, 2<sup>ND</sup> FLOOR \* HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
PHONE: (808) 768-7901 \* FAX (808) 768-7782  
WWW.HONOLULU.GOV

PETER B. CARLISLE  
MAYOR



MICHAEL R. HANSEN  
ACTING DIRECTOR

GARY T. KUROKAWA  
ADMINISTRATOR

February 8, 2011

Honorable Will Espero,  
Chair, Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, & Military Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Proposed SB655- Relating to Conveyance Tax**

The City and County of Honolulu supports SB655, 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 current method, whereby the city makes weekly pickups of the printed certificates from the Department of Taxation, is not efficient and would be greatly improved with electronic data transfers of the conveyance certificates filed with the Bureau of Conveyances. Additionally, the Department of Taxation would no longer need to provide printed copies of these certificates for the counties. 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.

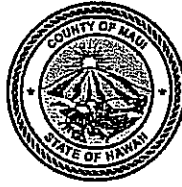
Your consideration and approval of this bill is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary T. Kurokawa".

Gary T. Kurokawa  
Administrator  
Real Property Assessment Division

ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
Mayor



DANILO F. AGSALOG  
Director of Finance

JEREMIAH L. SAVAGE  
Deputy Director of Finance

SCOTT K. TERUYA  
Administrator

GERY MADRIAGA  
Assistant Administrator

COUNTY OF MAUI  
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE  
**REAL PROPERTY TAX DIVISION**  
70 E. KAAHUMANU AVENUE, SUITE A-16, KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732  
Assessment: (808) 270-7297 | Billing and Collection: (808) 270-7697 | Fax: (808) 270-7884  
www.mauipropertytax.com

February 8, 2011

Testimony of Scott K. Teruya, Real Property Tax Division Administrator, County of Maui  
on SB 655  
Relating to Conveyance Tax

To the Senate committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
February 12, 2011, 9:00 a.m., Room 229

Honorable Chair Will Espero and Committee Members:

The County of Maui Real Property Tax Division and Honorable Mayor Alan M. Arakawa are testifying in support of SB 655, Relating to Conveyance Tax.

The proposed amendment would require the Director of Taxation (DOTAX) to provide each County's Real Property Assessment office with an image of all certificates of conveyance for their respective county filed with the Bureau of Conveyances within ten days after the end of each week and free of charge. Currently, Maui County relies on assistance from the City and County of Honolulu's assessment office and a third party vendor to retrieve Maui's documents from the DOTAX (in Oahu) and then mail the documents to our office.

By providing each County with their respective certificates electronically, this would assure Maui County a process of receiving its certificates without the need to travel to Oahu or rely on a third party vendor. Also, if an electronic file is provided, the DOTAX would no longer need to provide hard copies for the counties.

We urge you to pass this important amendment and give the Counties the means to promptly maintain their records in a timely manner for the public's best interest. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott K. Teruya", is written over a faint, larger version of the signature.

Scott K. Teruya  
Real Property Tax Division Administrator

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.  
Mayor

Gary K. Heu  
Managing Director



Wallace G. Rezendes Jr.  
Finance Director

Sally A. Motta  
Deputy Finance Director

**COUNTY OF KAUAI**  
Department of Finance  
Real Property Assessment

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, & Millitary Affairs  
State Senate  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 231  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Espero and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 655 Relating to Conveyance Tax Certificates

The County of Kauai strongly supports SB 655 which, if passed, would require the director of taxation to provide the real property assessment division of each county with images of all certificate of conveyance filed with the State of Hawai'i Bureau of Conveyance.

Kauai County title abstractors currently rely upon the City & County of Honolulu to collect and scan the printed hardcopies of the conveyance certificates, sort them by tax map key, and forward electronically to our Real Property Assessment division. This bill would allow for greater efficiencies, reduced paperwork, and greater reliability for both the counties and the state. Inasmuch as the state Department of Taxation has already implemented the scanning of the conveyance tax certificates, forwarding these digital copies to the counties would be highly beneficial for keeping abreast of ownership changes, restrictions, encumbrances and sales prices.

Your consideration and approval of HB 655 is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Wallace G. Rezendes, Jr.  
Director of Finance