HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU AND THE MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO ENACT PROPERTY TAX RELIEF MEASURES.

WHEREAS, based on the October 2005 median home price in the City and County of Honolulu, the average property tax bill increased over thirty per cent from 2004; and

WHEREAS, since 2001, using the same median home prices, the average property tax bill in the City and County of Honolulu has increased by over one hundred and three per cent; and

WHEREAS, this year, over 5,300 people are challenging the City and County of Honolulu's value assessment on their homes, approximately a twenty-seven percent increase over the number of challengers in 2005; and

WHEREAS, the current homeowner exemption stands at \$40,000, while the October 2005 median home price for the City and County of Honolulu stood at \$620,000; and

WHEREAS, home prices are continuing to rise in the booming real estate market; and

WHEREAS, an undertaking to only fund projects that the city and county can afford to construct and maintain is a good start, a serious review of services that the City and County of Honolulu provides may also lead to budgetary savings; and

WHEREAS, discussions between the City and County of Honolulu and the State dealing with consolidation of certain services, which could lead to net savings on both parts, appear to have stalled; and

 WHEREAS, failure to address the increasing expenses and the massive debt of the City and County of Honolulu will lead to even higher property taxes; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, that this body requests the City Council and the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu to enact some form of property tax relief for the citizens of the City and County of Honolulu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and each member of the City Council of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY:

Mark Moses

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