

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Friday, February 13, 2009
2:20PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 269
RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY**

House Bill 269 proposes that the Registrar of the Bureau of Conveyances (Bureau) be required to provide to the Administrator of the Real Property Assessment Division of the City and County of Honolulu, an image and index of all documents relating to regular system land recorded in the Bureau. Further, this information is to be provided within ten days of the week of recording and without charge. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is opposed to this bill.

Currently, the Registrar has been meeting with the Administrator of the Real Property Assessment Division of the City and County of Honolulu to develop a process of transmitting the images and index information. Even though the Bureau does not require the tax map key numbers to be captured, the City and County of Honolulu requests the tax map key number to be included with the index information. In an effort to work toward a common goal of providing information to the City and County of Honolulu, the staff of the Bureau has begun inputting the tax map key numbers.

The Department believes this is unnecessary legislation. The Registrar of the Bureau of Conveyances and the Administrator of the Real Property Assessment Division of the City and County of Honolulu should be able to accomplish this transfer of information through a continued effort of working together to achieve this goal.

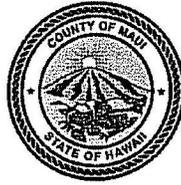
LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

CHARMAINE TAVARES
Mayor



KALBERT K. YOUNG
Director of Finance

AGNES M. HAYASHI
Deputy Director of Finance

SCOTT K. TERUYA
Acting 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

Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Honorable Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

County of Maui, Department of Finance, Real Property Tax Division
Friday, February 13, 2009

Support of HB 269, Relating to Real Property

The County of Maui, Real Property Tax Division supports HB 269, Relating to Real Property, which would provide the Counties an image and index of all instruments and documents recorded with the registrar's office in a timely manner and free of charge.

Obtaining documents in a timely manner enables the Counties to promptly maintain records necessary for notification and real property tax purposes. Property owners are also affected and will benefit as applicants seeking zoning change, conditional use permits, bed and breakfast permits, and transient vacation rental permits are required to mail notifications to property owners within a specified radius notifying owners of the proposed use. This will expedite updating current ownership to the public records.

Under existing law, the registrar of the Bureau of Conveyances must furnish an attested copy of any instrument or document recorded in the registrar's office when requested. This amendment will simply add a timetable to help assure the timely receipt of the documents and at no cost to the Counties.

We urge you to pass this important bill and give the Counties the means to maintain their records in a timely manner for the public's best interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott K. Teruya".

Scott K. Teruya
Acting Real Property Tax Administrator

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Nancy E. Crawford
Director

Deanna S. Sako
Deputy Director

County of Hawaii

Finance Department

25 Aupuni Street, Room 118 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720
(808) 961-8234 • Fax (808) 961-8248

February 12, 2009

The Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Karamatsu and Members of the Committee:

RE: Testimony in Support of House Bill No. 269
Hearing Friday, February 13, 2009, at 2:20 p.m., Conference Room 325

The Department of Finance, County of Hawai'i, Real Property Tax Division is tasked with assessing real property and maintaining current ownership records for Ad Valorem tax purposes. We strongly support H.B. 269, relating to real property, requiring the Registrar of the Bureau of Conveyances to provide, within 10 days and free of charge, an image and index of all instruments that contain real property transactions each week to the administrator of the city and county of Honolulu's real property assessment division.

The City and County of Honolulu's real property assessment division will then make that data available to the other counties. This amendment enables the counties to promptly track property ownership, encumbrances, restrictions, uses, and sales prices for real property tax assessment and billing purposes. Access to the documents filed at the Bureau of Conveyances is critical to the counties' real property assessment programs.

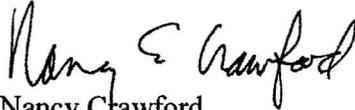
This transfer of data has, to date, been dependent on private agreements and these agreements are currently in jeopardy. The real property divisions face the prospect of either adding greatly to the costs of running the real property assessment process or worse being cut off from data needed to function.

Other jurisdictions assessing a real property tax have similar mechanisms in place requiring the rapid and accurate transfer of all conveyances on a regular basis from their regular registrars to the various assessment offices recognizing the vital nature of this link.

We urge the committee to pass this extremely important bill which along with a complementary bill addressing the Land Court System (H.B. 268) as this would give the counties the means to equitably administer their real property tax programs in a timely and cost effective manner.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Crawford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Nancy Crawford
Director of Finance

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr.
Director of Finance

Gary K. Heu
Administrative Assistant

Belma A. Baris
Deputy Director of Finance

COUNTY OF KAUAI
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

TESTIMONY OF THE
COUNTY OF KAUAI
FINANCE DIRECTOR WALLACE G. REZENTES, JR.

TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

February 13, 2009

TESTIMONY ON **HB 268 & HB 269**, RELATING TO REAL PROPERTY TAXATION

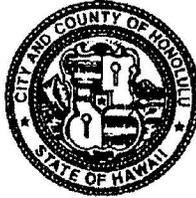
TO THE HONORABLE JON RIKI KARAMATSU, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Wallace G. Rezentes, Jr., Finance Director, County of Kaua'i, providing support testimony on HB 268 & HB 269, Relating to Land Court and Real Property Taxation, respectively, which enable the counties to obtain information in a timely manner without charge. Access to images and indexes of documents and other information filed at the Bureau of Conveyances and Land Court, including but not limited to ownership, encumbrances, restrictions, uses, and sales prices are critical in the daily operation of the Real Property Tax Division.

We urge you to please consider these extremely important bills which would give the counties the means to equitably administer their real property tax programs in a timely and cost effective manner.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FISCAL SERVICES
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENT DIVISION
33 SOUTH KING STREET, #101 * HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-7901 * FAX (808) 768-7782
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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



RIX MAURER III
ACTING DIRECTOR

MARK K. OTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

GARY T. KUROKAWA
ADMINISTRATOR

February 13, 2009

Honorable Jon Riki Karamatsu
State House Representative, 41st District
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 302
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 269 - Relating to Real Property

The City and County of Honolulu supports H.B. 269, which would require the assistant registrar of the Land Court within ten days after the end of each week to provide without charge, to the Administrator of the Real Property Assessment Division, images and an index of all documents filed or recorded in the registrar's office during each week relating to regular system land in all the counties.

We are aware of some concerns that the Bureau of Conveyance has with this bill and H.B. 268, but believe that a compromise can be reached that would address everyone's concerns.

We urge your approval of this bill, so that (1) all counties may receive real property information for purposes of determining accurate and timely real property tax assessments and (2) thereby reduce the cost to taxpayers.

Thank you for your support and if you have any questions, please call me at 768-7901 or by email at gkurokawa@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Gary T. Kurokawa
Administrator
Real Property Assessment Division

GTK:dw