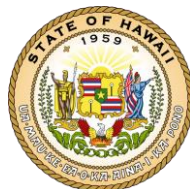


JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. No.34, Relating to Taxation

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Judiciary

DATE: Tuesday, February 7, 2023

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding S.B. 34 for your consideration.

S.B. 34 amends section 235-68, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), relating to the withholding of tax on the disposition of real property by nonresident persons, commonly referred to as "HARPTA" (the Hawaii Real Property Tax Act). The measure adds a new definition for "residential real property" meaning fee simple or leasehold real property upon which is situated 1) from one to four dwelling units; or 2) a residential condominium or cooperative apartment, the primary use of which is occupancy as a residence by any natural person or persons, regardless of whether the property owner resides on the property.

The measure also increases the tax withholding of 7.25 percent to 75 percent on the disposition of "residential real property" for nonresidents. This measure is effective upon approval and applies to real estate dispositions that occur on or after September 15, 2023.

HARPTA was established pursuant to Act 213, Session Laws of Hawaii 1990, to ensure that nonresident persons comply with Hawaii's Income Tax Law. This withholding tax is not a separate tax on nonresidents for the sale of real property in Hawaii, but simply

a method of collecting the estimated taxes that may be due on the net gain the seller may have on the sale.

The Department notes that the proposed withholding rate of 75 percent appears to be excessive, as the amount withheld is meant to approximate the amount of taxes that will be due on the disposition of the property and is based on the gross proceeds of sale without deduction for closing costs, costs of sale, or the cost basis of the property. Most real property sales will qualify for capital gains treatment, which has a maximum rate of 7.25 percent of the net gain, determined after all allowable costs and reduced by the adjusted tax basis of the property.

Form N-288C allows the seller to apply for a refund of the withheld taxes in excess of liability on dispositions by nonresidents. Changing the rate to a higher rate will likely increase the amount of Form N-288Cs that will be submitted to the Department and increase the refunds that will need to be issued.

With respect to the effective date, the Department requests that the measure be amended to become effective on January 1, 2024, to allow time for form and system changes. The Department notes, however, that due to the number of bills with tax law changes that have been introduced this year, the Department may not have the resources to implement all measures passed this session in time for January 1, 2024. The Department will continue to monitor the status of proposed legislation and will advise whether some changes will require a later effective date.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

February 7, 2023

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 34, Relating to Taxation

HEARING: Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lyndsey Garcia, Director of Advocacy, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i and its over 11,000 members. HAR **opposes** Senate Bill 34 which amends the taxes withheld on the amount realized by nonresidents from the disposition of Hawaii residential real property from 7.25% to 75%. Applies to real estate dispositions that occur on or after 9/15/2023.

The Hawai'i Real Property Tax Act or HARPTA requires a withholding of 7.25% of the sales price from the seller when the seller is not a resident of Hawai'i. The law is not a tax, but it was designed to protect the State from loss of capital gains tax revenues. Currently, Hawaii's capital gains tax rate is 7.25% of any profits realized. If the 7.25% of the sales price withholding is too large, and the owner is current on General Excise Tax and Transient Accommodations Tax payments, the owner can recoup some or all of it, if there is no gain, of the withholdings beyond the applicable capital gains tax. For example, if a nonresident purchased a property for \$500,000 and sold it for \$600,000 years later, the capital gains would be on the profit of \$100,000 or \$7,250. The HARPTA withholding would be on the sales price of \$600,000 or \$43,500. Because HARPTA is 7.25% of the sales price, which can be substantially more than the capital gains tax rate, increasing the HARPTA rate to 75% seems unnecessary and excessive.

For the foregoing reasons, Hawai'i REALTORS® opposes this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



Feb. 7, 2023

9:30 a.m.

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 16

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Joe Kent, Executive Vice President

RE: SB34 — RELATING TO TAXATION

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer comments on [SB34](#), which would increase the tax withholding for nonresidents under the Hawaii Real Property Tax Act from 7.25% to 75% for all residential real estate transactions taking place after Sept. 15, 2023.

We would like to begin by noting that the withholdings under the Hawaii Real Property Tax Act HARPTA are not taxes. The law is modeled on the federal Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act of 1980 and is intended to ensure that both residents and nonresidents who make money from selling real estate in Hawaii pay their lawful amount of the income tax.

To ensure this, HARPTA mandates that buyers hand over 7.25% of the value of the real estate sale to the state Department of Taxation until tax season. The department then calculates the seller's income-tax liability and rebates the difference, if any, between the HARPTA withholding and the tax liability.

HARPTA applies equally to Hawaii residents and nonresidents, although resident sellers may waive the withholding by filing a form with the department.¹

¹ ["Tax Facts 2010-1,"](#) Hawaii Department of Taxation, Revised April 2021, p. 2.

SB34 would increase the withholding for nonresident buyers to 75% of the value of the transaction.

The premise seems to be that out-of-state real estate buyers are a major cause of Hawaii's high housing prices, and that increasing their withholding rate would discourage and reduce their purchases. However, this idea is a myth.

A policy brief published in August by the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, "[The 'outsider theory' of Hawaii's housing crisis](#)," examined national and state housing sales data and found no statistically significant correlation between nonresident purchases and home prices — in Hawaii or any other state.²

Many states with low housing prices had high levels of outside purchases and many states with high housing prices had low levels.³

On the other hand, the study also examined land-use regulations in states across the country and found a definite link between them and high housing prices.

Not surprisingly, Hawaii has the strictest land-use regulations in the nation — and the nation's highest median home prices.⁴ These findings echoed a 2022 study by the University of Hawaii's Economic Research Organization.⁵

Additionally, the Grassroot Institute study discovered that out-of-state and foreign buyers tend to purchase more expensive homes, while Hawaii residents purchase relatively less expensive homes. This suggests that nonresidents and residents are operating in different housing markets, and limiting the sale of houses to nonresidents may not make average homes more affordable.

All that said, another reason to reject SB34 is that there's a good chance it wouldn't even achieve its goal. Despite its intention to discourage real estate sales to nonresidents, the relatively high net worth of many nonresident buyers might nullify SB34 as an impediment to their purchases.

² Jensen Ahokovi, "[The 'outsider' theory of Hawaii's housing crisis](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, August 2022.

³ Ibid, p. 11.

⁴ Ibid, pp. 16-17.

⁵ Rachel Inafuku, Justin Tyndall and Carl Bonham, "[Measuring the Burden of Housing Regulation in Hawaii](#)," University of Hawaii's Economic Research Organization, April 14, 2022, p. 4.

HARPTA withholdings are rebated at tax season, so well-to-do buyers can afford to wait longer than the average resident buyer. In addition, this bill may only shift the timing of the sales of high-end residential real estate so that the assets of the buyers are not tied up in the withholding period for longer than a few weeks or months.

Finally, SB34 is constitutionally dubious.

Discriminatory measures against nonresidents — such as the ones targeted by this bill — may run afoul of the U.S. Constitution’s Privileges and Immunities Clause, which provides that “the Citizens of each State shall be entitled to all Privileges and Immunities of Citizens in the several States.”

In prior court cases, the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down state employment preferences for residents and residency requirements for state bar examinations.⁶

In addition, the Constitution’s Equal Protection Clause and Commerce Clause could present barriers to the legality of this measure.

In sum, the best thing you could do regarding this bill would be to put it aside so you can focus on measures that would have a better chance of actually helping to resolve Hawaii’s housing crisis.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Sincerely,

Joe Kent
Executive Vice President
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

⁶ [“Overview of the Privileges and Immunities Clause,”](#) Article IV, Section 2, Clause 1 of the U.S. Constitution, accessed Feb. 5, 2023.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:28:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Humiston	Testifying for Rental By Owner Awareness Association	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We oppose the withholding of 75% of the contract price of a sale when the capital gain rate is only 7.5%. We respectfully request that this bill be deferred.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Increase HARPTA Withholding to 75%

BILL NUMBER: SB 34

INTRODUCED BY: AWA, Kidani

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Amends the taxes withheld on the amount realized by nonresidents from the disposition of Hawai'i residential real property from 7.25% to 75%. Applies to real estate dispositions that occur on or after 9/15/2023.

SYNOPSIS: Amends section 235-68, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to change the applicable withholding rate from 7.25% to 75% if the property being disposed of is residential real property.

Defines "residential real property" as fee simple or leasehold real property upon which is situated: (1) From one to four dwelling units; or (2) A residential condominium or cooperative apartment; the primary use of which is occupancy as a residence by any natural person or persons, regardless of whether the property owner resides on the property.

EFFECTIVE DATE: September 15, 2023.

STAFF COMMENTS: Section 235-68, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires withholding of income tax on the disposition of real property held by a nonresident. This withholding is sometimes known as HARPTA, an acronym for Hawaii Real Property Tax Act.

HARPTA is commonly misunderstood as a tax. It is not a tax. HARPTA was enacted to provide a means for the state to collect capital gains taxes from absentee owners. HARPTA is very similar to laws passed by several other states as well as to a federal law that applies to non-US citizens that sell real estate (which is called FIRPTA, an acronym for Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act).

Under HARPTA, an estimate of the owner's capital gains taxes is withheld at closing. When the selling owner subsequently files a Hawaii tax return, the owner then computes the proper tax liability and can then get a refund of any tax previously paid but that is not owed. HARPTA is a payment of tax just like wage withholding or estimated tax payments would be.

To be a valid withholding device, HARPTA should be designed to collect a reasonable estimate of taxes owed. The maximum capital gains tax rate for individuals is 7.25%, and that for corporations is 4%. By comparison, FIRPTA withholding is 15% where individual capital gains rates range from 0% to 25% and corporate capital gains are taxed at ordinary income rates up to 35% (prior to 2018) or 21% (2018 and afterward). A HARPTA rate of 75% is nowhere near the income tax that would be owed, and would be subject to challenge as unreasonable.

In 2018, the Department of Taxation projected that increasing the withholding rate from 5% (the HARPTA rate then) to 9% will generate for the State \$15,600,000 for fiscal year 2019 and

\$4,600,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each fiscal year thereafter. [Sen. Stand. Comm. Rep. No. 2657](#) (Ways & Means, 2018). A huge revenue gain like that means either that (1) the withheld amount is being used to pay income tax that otherwise wouldn't be paid, or (2) it's being intercepted to pay other kinds of taxes, such as general excise and transient accommodations taxes on rental income that is coming from the property, that weren't getting paid and were brought to light when the property got sold. If there is revenue gain even when the withholding rate is higher than the income tax rate, it means the problem isn't income tax; it's the GET and TAT that aren't being paid.

If that's the real problem, this bill isn't the right solution. The solution needs to focus on the GET and TAT, which need to be paid on an ongoing basis rather than caught by chance in the end when the property is sold. So, how about imposing a withholding requirement on property managers or rental pool operators? It may be a bit of extra paperwork, but it may be better than requiring the rest of us to pay higher and more burdensome taxes to make up for the scofflaws, the blissfully ignorant, and others who owe the GET and TAT but aren't paying it.

Digested: 2/5/2023

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:42:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Alice	Testifying for HOPE Services Hawai'i	Support	In Person

Comments:

HOPE Services Hawai'i strongly supports this bill.

TO: Members of the Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Natalie Iwasa
808-395-3233

HEARING: 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, February 7, 2023

SUBJECT: SB 34 – 75% State Withholding on Sales of Residential Properties Owned by
Non-residents – **OPPOSED**

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 34, which would increase state withholding from 7.5% to 75% (no this is not a typo) for sales of residential properties owned by nonresidents.

Is the intent of this to send a message to nonresidents thinking about buying property here, so that hopefully they won't buy?

This is simply an outrageous amount and really has no place in our tax system.

Please vote “no” on SB 34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:06:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Hicks	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

It is impossible to separate Hawai'i's housing crisis from the demand crisis. While there are good arguments for building more, it needs to be realized that as long as our beaches are nicer than Nebraska's the 333 million people living in the continental US will look to Hawaii as a desirable place for a second home.

Hawaii has since at least 1980, increased its housing stock more than its population has grown according to data from the US Census. Despite that, our housing prices have never fallen, maintaining a steady price-income ratio of 6-8 times, an amount 3-4 times what is considered affordable. Since 2000, our population has increased by 18% and our housing stock by 22%. The affordability crisis, if local demand was the issue, should be easing. Yet housing prices far from falling increased by 120% accounting for inflation. One of those numbers is not like the other.

The reason for this is in no part overseas demand. While overseas demand has fluctuated, it's local effects are significant. For instance, according the Hawaii Databook 70% of homes sold on Maui in 2020 went to overseas buyers.

Non-resident buyers also spend far more. Despite only buying 24% of all homes in 2020, overseas buyers accounted for 35% of the total sales volume according to Title Guarantee. This has significant ramifications beyond a single home being overbid relative to what local buyers can afford. It leads directly to spillover effects well documented in research on the housing market. Most papers estimate that these spillover effects increase nearby housing prices by 6-12%. That is, a high concentration of buyers bidding overmarket can lead increased prices for all homes. This is exactly the role that non-resident buyers play in the local market and the subsequent and continual increase in Hawaii's housing prices are proof of this fact.

The impact of overseas buyers cannot be ignored in addressing our affordability crisis. We have as much a demand problem as we have a supply problem, and little of that demand is from new residents. Much is instead driven by speculative investors and second home owners who have no more loyalty to Hawaii and it's people than they do to a stock ticker: we're good as long as we're profitable.

Nebraska has no beaches, and Hawaii families have no homes. This bill would ensure that the needs of local residents are met before those of would be vacation home owners and investors. I urge the committee to pass it.



150 Hamakua Drive #341
Kailua, HI 96734

(808) 224-0644
our-hawaii.org

Testimony in Support of SB34

Committee members,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony. On behalf of the 8,000+ supporters of Our Hawai'i, I write in strong support for Senate Bill 34, relating to taxation. Our supporters are local people — kama'āina and kānaka maoli, keiki and kūpuna, from Kailua to Kapolei to Kaua'i, Kohala, and every corner of our islands. They have joined our movement to fight for a Hawai'i that puts local people — not big money interests — first.

We've entered our sixth straight year of population decline. Thousands of local working families leave the state every year. More than half of all Native Hawaiians now live outside Hawai'i.

There is a limited supply of land, and an unlimited demand from continental and foreign interests to buy up their "slice of paradise," economically displacing families who have lived here for generations, many of for whom these are ancestral lands, through driving up the cost of property values, taxes, and rents.

It's a crisis, and this bill would begin to right the wrong. Let's stop beating around the bushes.

Mahalo Senator Awa for writing the legislation, Senator Rhoads for allowing the hearing, and to all of you for your hopeful support.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:26:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaala Clarke	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Kaala Clarke and I am a native Hawaiian from the island of Kauai. I believe this bill is a step in the right direction as we have been slowly pushed out of Hawaii and in the last 3 years it has been ever so aggressive. Not much of us left and even less land and homes for us to purchase. We are experiencing the highest cost of living in the United States with the lowest income. This is criminal. Much more needs to be done but this is a start. I'm in strong support of SB34!

Neal Halstead
2531 S. Kihei Road
Kihei, HI 96753

The Senate
The Thirty-Second Legislature
Regular Session of 2023

To: Senator Rhoades, Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice-Chair

Date: February 7, 2023 Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 06

RE: Senate Bill 34, Relating to Taxation

Chair Rhoades and Members of the Committee:

I am providing COMMENTS ONLY on the bill.

I understand the need to protect housing supply for residents, however, this solution **will not achieve the intended goal.**

1. A withholding tax is not a permanent tax. Once the final tax returns have been filed, any over-payment by withholding tax is refunded to the taxpayer. The state is not collecting 75% of the proceeds of sale.
2. Most people, when purchasing property, are not thinking about the eventual sale of the property. So a very high withholding tax that is levied at some long future date is not going to deter a purchase now. As such, this tax will not open up supply in the near term – or even in the long term. In fact, people intending to sell their property may put off the sale hoping the withholding tax – the “inconvenience tax” – is reduced.

If this committee desires to address the purchase of housing supply by non-residents, then you should look to the Stamp Tax levied in the United Kingdom as a model.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Neal Halstead

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:03:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:39:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roderick Yu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou,

He koko kanaka maoli au, and I wish to submit my opposition to SB34.

- most of the properties bought by non-HI residents or foreigners are situated in "resort" and STR zones that are deemed to be investment properties. Increasing the withholding tax to 75% will bring significant legal repercussions

- the 75% tax on sale proceeds will still be returned to taxpayer once the tax are filed and finalized

- inventory will further be decreased due to current owners not wanting to sell

- cost of housing will further increase since the sale price will go larger so as to make up for the increased tax

Mahalo piha.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:12:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamamalahoe	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

During the Pandemic til 2022, I've seen multiple out of state non residents make their way into our community at zip 96716. My family got evicted from a home they were renting so the owner could sell it to a non resident family. This must stop. Mahalo. Concerned kanaka o ko Hawa'i ape ain'a.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:13:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppose SB34 and respectfully request that the Bill be held.

This Bill relates to the HARPTA withholding on the gross proceeds from the sale of real estate. HARPTA is collected as an estimate of nonresident owner's capital gains taxes. The current 7.25% is more representative of what the actual tax liability will be once calculated on an owner's income tax return filed with the State of Hawaii.

75% is exceedingly punitive. It will result in financial hardship. No lender will sign off on a sale when their loan will not be made whole. It is likely that lenders will bring suit against the State when there is no means for them to be paid upon the close of escrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:02:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssandra Dove	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

As a resident of Hawaii I support this measure in hopes that over time it will help increase access to affordable housing for residents and especially Kanaka maoli. I think it is sad and unjust that so many native Hawaiians are being forced to move from their home because of how many housing options are being turned into investment properties and short term vacation rentals. I hope this bill will dissuade international purchases from buying properties sign unseen and get properties back into the hands of those who contribute to our local economy and look out for the well being of our residents and citizens.

mahalo!

Aly Dove

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:13:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
skylar akina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I agree with this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:24:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayleen Dela Cuesta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our 'Aina has been taken over many many years ago. And today it seems as if it's gotten a thousand times worse. It's sad that our own Hawaiian people can't afford to live where we were all born and raised. Please put an end to non residents/tourists from buying any land in the state of Hawai'i.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:27:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brynn Miranda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm am in support of this bill because it's unfair that Native Hawaiians and locals have to live multi-generational and outsiders get to come in and buy up property. I am hoping this bill will create some kind of change so that my family and I can be able to buy our own home at a reasonable price.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:28:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:32:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why is kamehameha school buying kaupo ranch on Maui is more interesting what do they need it for

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:32:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler kinnaman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a third generation resident the option to buy a home has been reduced by mainland buyers. Not only to buy but even rent since they buy the homes to rent and only care about money and not helping the locals out

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:33:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyrie Puaoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely support SB34 and strongly urge and ask those in power to move this forward, to do so. As kanaka and lifetime resident here in Hawaii, my heart breaks over and over as I watch my friends and family move away. Many just within the past 2-3 years, because they feel it's impossible and hopeless to ever own their own home and live here. The nonresident control over housing is hurting us locals in so many ways. I keep hearing Gov. Green and other politicians say how lack of housing is a problem. They want to build more to solve it. Another way to solve the issue would be to make housing less accessible to nonresidents and give locals a chance to fulfill their own dreams of homeownership in Hawaii. Again I ask that you please act in favor of SB34. Mahalo.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:35:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Hansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because as a native Hawaiian I would love to be able to buy a home here without having to compete with everyone in the world buying everything ,I wanna raise my kids in these islands ,and if this doesn't pass I probably won't be able to

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:36:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Paiva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Briana Paiva. I am a resident of the county of Hawaii. I have lived here my whole life. I am native Hawaiian on my mothers side and 6th generation Portuguese on my fathers side. I work a full time job and have always been good at saving money. Most other locals I know also work full time or multiple full time jobs. With that being said, it's sad that most of the locals here can barely afford to pay rent or buy a home here. There are so many non residents buying up all the homes on the market and turning them into their "home away from home" or "investment home" they use to rent out as vacation rentals. These same people don't live here, work here, or pay taxes here. A lot of them just buy property here to resell it for way more than any working class local can afford. It stresses me and many people I know not knowing what the future holds with prices more than doubling because of all these rich non residents buying everything before we even get a chance to try. So many homes and properties are bought site unseen while us locals are trying our hardest to just get approved to buy these same properties. We are all scared to see what Hawai'i will look like in the next ten years. Sadly at the rate we are going, there will be no aloha or locals left. No one to work in the service industry to serve these same people because everyone who can afford to live here will work from home or remotely. Everywhere you go here, there are signs saying that they are short staffed. That is partially because the people who actually worked these jobs had to move away to a place where the cost of living is lower. They are being replaced with people who don't have jobs here and live here only a few months out of the year. Our economy will fail and who knows what will happen to our beautiful home. I'm hoping this bill will help us take a step in the right direction before it's too late to save our people and our home. Please put the people of Hawai'i into consideration when making a decision and not put your personal agendas before them. Thank you

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:40:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curen Ohama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We as community members need to get a grip on housing. At the current rate there will be no quality community left. Just privileged people with really poor people doing all the essential jobs. This bill must pass. We all No it.
mahalo , Curen Ohama

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:40:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support!!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:41:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keke Manera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's about time something was going in the right direction for actual residents of Hawai'i. I'm hoping you folks do push this senate bill forward and put it into action. Hawai'i needs a break from the constant exploitation AND THEFT. I also find it criminal that non residents still have a chance to buy up homes/properties under the piss poor excuse that it's "unconstitutional". What bs is that. What they're doing is causing so much more harm than hurting their feelings and telling them NO! Stop buying up our homes! We need these homes! No one should ever complain about houseless people if you can't house us first.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:47:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT this bill. As a native Hawaiian, I would like to keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands for children and their children. It has been extremely hard for me and my other half to afford Hawaii because people out of state are purchasing and selling the homes for a crazy amount. This bill will help us Hawaiians have a chance

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:47:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie pirkl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure. Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:49:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaze Pacheco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Please seriously consider this bill. As a native Hawaiian, a local resident, born and raised on the Big Island of Hawaii and also a mortgage loan officer I strongly support the SB34 bill.

Will it affect my job, probably...but more importantly is our people!!! Year after year, we watch our local people get "priced out of paradise". Local families can no longer afford to live in our own homelands. The cost of housing has forced hardworking people out of their homes and causes continued and rising homelessness. Working in the mortgage industry, I see investors coming in and outbidding local families time and time again. It's all about money and greed!

Now is the time to put people before profits! If we do not do this now, then when? Our islands have been taken over by greed. The Hawaii lifestyle that we grew up with is at risk. The spirit of aloha and our people are at risk. We need this law in place to protect our islands, our people and our lifestyle.

Please come together and think about our people. If I can be of further assistance, please call me or email me.

Mahalo,

Chaze Pacheco

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:49:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaise kanahela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for bill SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:50:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donton Meinel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:00:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to allow our Hawaii homes to be kept for people of Hawaii and locals that grew up here. Hawaii is losing the Aloha but with this bill, it will help local families and our keiki to continue to live here & raise their family. Please support bill SB34 as I do, for all to continue to call Hawaii our home.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:11:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill hoping it will slow down non residents from buying up houses in hawai'i for rental / vacation homes, we all know it's not going to stop them they have the money. Hopefully it helps more locals / me buy a home in Hawai'i and not move somewhere else. Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:14:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Renken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support bill SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:18:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of bill SB34. It is a bill that is very much needed in our state of Hawaii. The fact that non Hawaii residents are able to buy homes here in our already overpriced lands, drives the born and bred of Hawaii to find "home" elsewhere. This is more than just being angry, this is more than thinking we are just lazy. We work so hard to be able to live in our beautiful Hawaii and most of us are so drawn out because we're working and working and working to one day purchase a home for our families to set up a foundation for our next generations future. But we barely make it by. Especially with the rise in prices in literally every aspect. First the homes, then gas, groceries and all. Enough is enough and this is a huge step in the right direction. Anything to help lessen the sales from non residents would be great! Mahalo Senator!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:23:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kona_kuailani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's "about time"! Many years families struggle to continue to live here where we were born and raised. Forced out by rich people from around the world shyeocketing prices higher and higher every year! No more! Mahalo! Keep Ohana Home!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:26:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Van Cleave	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB34. If this bill is passed, it will give kanaka and locals a chance to be able to stay in Hawaii instead of being forced out because of the housing crisis largely due to non residents. Please listen to what the people of Hawaii want and pass this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:32:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I have lived on oahu my entire life. I'm college educated and have been employed my entire adult life. I serve this community everyday. I'm a father of four young children. I currently make a six figure salary and rent a home from extended family for a very discounted amount. Despite my "good fortune", I'm still unable to afford to purchase a home for my family. A home that generations of my family could live in, thrive in, grow in. It's been a dream of mine since growing up, moving from home to home, from friends rooms and floors, to shelters and transitional housing, from cars to bus stops. This was my reality and yet I still cling to the dream that I may one day own a piece of land and a home that I could call my own. The tax on non-residents can only benefit hawaii residents by increasing supply and decreasing demand from the casual "visitors" who aren't even a part of this community.

Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:32:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Benziger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to continue to help keep Hawaiians and other locals who have been born and raised in Hawaii for generations to be able to stay home, and not be bought out by visitors, vacation homes or just not being able to afford to compete with foreign buyers/companies. There aren't enough resources allowing families to stay here this is one of the changes we need to make it harder for others and easier for local people to access the housing resources we have.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:44:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TODD SHIRAKI	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:45:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
pohai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB34. You should be a resident to be able to buy property in Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:46:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a 4th Generation Hawaii Resident. My family has lived on Oahu and struggled to make a living here for our Ohana. I am only 31 years old with 4 Keiki and it breaks my heart to see foreigners, non residents come to our island our home and buy. I want to raise my Keiki here, and I want them to be able to live and have their own homes here. Please listen to us as a people. Give us as locals the first chance at a better life here with homes. Mahalo.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:55:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moani kupahu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Moani Kupahu kanaka of waimanalo. Descendant of Ku. Hasn't our land already been destroyed enough with cities. We come from people of the land thag actually used this land to create food but we still buy from out of state. This land naturally has the perfect temperature to grow anything yet we do not utilize it. We kill farmers and take away their land of property. We rob kanakas of living on this island bc we let foreigners buy us out by our own kanakas. A lot of you are from here and u take bribes, and you do this to your own blood for the benefit of self. Hawaiians we think about our neighbors and our community's and we share. Look at how we ran out ahupuaa's back in the day. every city is named after "Wai". Wai is water. Where we live creates its own life. For some reason our government depends on foreigners but we have a place that can depend on its self to sustain kanakas. i do support this bill to not let out of state people buy up our land. Let's bring our people back to their homes where they once's called it. Let's get natives to be back in our lands and sea. Take back our rights to fish, hunt, and create life again without the government trying to force their own agenda. Get Hawaiian people in the government because why would we have anyone else trying to govern our land. Give our land back. We don't need anything poisoning what we cherish and what we take care of.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:00:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan I'i	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Morgan I'i. I am testifying in support of bill SB34. I am born and raised on the Big Island my grandparents were awarded property on Hawaiian homes land but sadly both died before they could build on it and enjoy it. My parents took over and built on it, raised me and my siblings, and now I raise my 3 children on the same piece of land. I would like to buy my own but due to so many outside buyers it has priced us out. My boyfriend works for a landscaping company, he met a couple who comes to big island twice a year. They own a house in a high end gated community located right next door to where we live now. They just flew back and purchased 20 acres in North Kohala which is a place we love and where my other half grew up. We would like to move back there, my kids go to school there, same place we did, and I drive 30min everyday to take them there. But we can't move back like I said the cost is crazy. This couple made a comment to him that they are trying to buy all of Kohala "because they just love it there." There needs to be something done to keep people like this who enjoy our home twice a year from buying us out. And this bill right here is a start. More should be done. Needs to be done. For our next generation. Please pass this bill so that we can start somewhere to stop getting priced and kicked out of our home. Mahalo council members for your time.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:00:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiians deserve a fighting chance at obtaining property on what is ancestral land. Kanaka are pushed out by rising housing cost and the inability to compete with wealthy entities purchasing Hawaiian lands to flip and sell for profit at the expense of local people who cannot afford these outrageous prices. Hawaiians deserve right to their land. Hawaiian people are a minority in the Hawaiian islands and a contributor to that is the fact that the cost of housing is so outrageous that young local families feel that their only chance at providing for their keiki is to move away to the states for affordability. Otherwise, they are pushed into the system fighting for affordable housing developments or HHL only to be waitlisted for years. Give the people of the land a chance at continuing the growth of future generations of Hawaiians on Hawaiian land. Pass bill SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:05:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Reis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Actions need to be taken seriously on this crisis. One step closer.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:16:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nō, he ko'u inoa Malialani Dullanty.

I am kanaka 'oiwi, but born and raised on the continent. I worked hard my entire life to be able to move home to Hawai'i nei and two years ago, my husband and I were finally able to do so. This has created the opportunity for my father to come back home more often as well. While I am supportive of this bill in theory as a method to keep out second home buyers and protect locals, I have some concerns for Kanaka Maoli who have been displaced from our homeland and the accessibility for them to come home, like I was lucky enough to be able to. Hawaii News Now released a report earlier this month that pointed out there are currently around 60,000 more Native Hawaiians living on the continent than here in Hawai'i. I know just within my family, I have a cousin who currently lives in Australia, but would like to move back to the pae'āina in the next several years to raise a family. And several other cousins who are saving and working to do the same.

I am concerned that this bill will make it impossible for kanaka to come home. How is this issue being addressed?

Mahalo for your time and effort.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:10:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Ann Kanewa-Wilkinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing my testimony supporting bill SB34 because I have 4 adult children and 7 grandchildren. My children and grandchildren live with me and trying to save money so they can one day but a house. However with the price of housing nowadays whether it's buying or renting it is very expensive and ridiculously high. While nonresidents continue to buy homes here and sell them for much more , making it even harder for us local people to buy homes and continue to live in Hawaii which is our home. We have a nonresident who bought our neighbors house 4 years ago, renovate it and renting it out to nonresidents of hawaii. That person is now selling that property for 2 million dollars more than they bought it. It's just not right and our local people shouldn't have to be moving away from their home and families. Something seriously needs to be done about housing for local people instead of catering to the mainlanders.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:18:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherish Kam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the Owner of a cleaning company. I am writting this testimony to support this bill. It is time that Hawai'i starts to out our own people first.

Too often, we are called to cleanings on a normal basis to do "move out cleanings" from tenants and upon meeting them we find out that the owners bought the home and is renting them out. Over and over again I see this happening day in and day out. About 95% of our customers are Non residential owners!

We also are cleaning my for Air BNB's and have realized that all these units are not owned by locals. They are owned by non residents who are using this as income. By allowing non residents to buy our properties and lease them or rent them out as vacation homes, it takes away from the local people here. Our hotel workers are losing jobs, our hotels and businesses inside them are falling apart.

we need to put a stop to allowing people to buy properties only to make \$ off them. I believe our own local people need more opportunities to buy homes! There are so many investors buying here but none in support of our local residents.

MAKE A WAY FOR HAWAII PEOPLE TO LIVE IN HAWAII!!!! We do not have enough jobs for people to afford buying houses or enough houses affordable for our locals.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:24:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reyna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill in hopes that non-residents will not profit from buying homes in Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:29:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Hind	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm writing in support of bill SB34. Growing up here in Hawaii and being part Native Hawaiian, Hawaii has shaped every aspect of the person I am today. Now a husband and father, I dream to provide my daughter a chance to grown up with the same values, traditions and community as I did. The landscape of Hawaii has changed drastically over the last few years. As more Hawaiians and local families are forced to move away due to an unrealistic housing market, Hawaii has sadly become just a name that is packaged and sold, loosing its true essence its true value, which is found in the people of Hawaii's spirit of aloha, the life essence of this sacred land. Let's take this opportunity to do what is right for our community and help ensure a future for our local families here in Hawaii. Mahalo for your time, Robert Leighton Hind

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:30:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siaosi Havea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 25yo male I loved growing up in Hawaii. I remembered when I was in my teens and looking at the beauty around me a thought came to me: "I had a wonderful childhood. I'm truly blessed to live in paradise. I would love for my future kids to have a childhood like mine." Even though my parents were trying their very best to provide for me and made sure we didn't live in poverty, I could see the struggle it was trying to keep up with the newly paradise lovers that came to visit but didn't want to leave. Seeing this struggle as a young adult, I realized that soon I would have to compete against the mainlanders for a roof over mine and my future family's heads. I fully support this bill because although I don't mind newcomers to come and "visit", I miss the Hawaii I grew up with and loved. That Hawaii was filled with love for the land, the people, and all the little things that makes Hawaii, Hawaii. Now it's hard enough for us locals to pay so much to live in Hawaii with barely working enough to stay afloat to keep the lights on at night, the water running, a warm meal to put on the table everyday, and to put gas in our cars to go to and from work everyday; but to also keep up with the foreign competition to have a wonderful home to come back to everyday and a peaceful bed to sleep on, is outright criminal. We shouldn't have to pay ridiculous amounts of money for a home just because the foreigners can easily afford it and then just put that same home up for rent and asking for astronomical prices that no kama'aina can keep up with while they sit pretty back on the mainland making a living using locals as their passive income. I would like to move out of my parents house eventually and to live in my own home. Not having to rent and pay someone to live in theirs. I want to live in MINES. Those mainlanders have no ALOHA. They don't care what we have to struggle with. They just want their rent on time. And without any notice, raise the rent within a month or 2. Forcing the family to either find a new place to live or move away from their homeland and live on the foreign mainland. Thank you for this bill and I truly hope and pray for it to pass. Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:33:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I testify in strong support of SB34. As the nickname of this bill says, it's about time.

Mahalo,

Dylan Ramos

96816

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:34:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Wang Nobriga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the concept of this bill and the introducer's willingness to look for ways to help the residents of Hawaii. Aloha and Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:35:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nellieshy mamuad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34 and feel that it should include an additional non-resident tax for the purchase upfront.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:42:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trevor La Torre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kakoo. This bill is one tool to preserve the affordability of our communities for our keiki and their keiki. E nana pono makou ia oukou.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:51:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Cua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kawika Cua and I am a local resident born and raised in Hawaii. I'm also a native Hawaiian. This is my home and I wish to stay here and raise my family. The increasing amount it cost to own or rent a home here is extremely difficult to afford. There are so many outsiders moving here and taking away the chance of local people affording to own a home. I fear that there will be a point in time when Hawaii will loose its most important value which is the people who live and show aloha. Keep the home ownership to locals only.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:56:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Mangauil-Alvarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe non-residents should not be able to buy homes here in Hawai'i when our own people, native-Hawaiians are struggling & unable to purchase homes due to inflation. Too many non-residents are purchasing homes here & many without even seeing the place in person, they purchase it just to make money off of it as vacation rentals. This should not be allowed. Hawai'i will not be Hawai'i anymore if this is allowed to continue. I worry for my children & the generations after them for what the housing crisis will be like in the future, times are hard right now with housing, imagine 20 years from now, it'll be worse if non-residents continue to buy out all the land & houses. Bottom line, we should be keeping Hawaiian land in Hawaiian hands!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:08:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB34

Amending the taxes withheld on the amount realized by nonresidents from the disposition of Hawaii residential real property from 7.25% to 75%. Applies to real estate dispositions that occur on or after 9/15/2023.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:09:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
distin Barca	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and raised hard working tax paying resident , I support this bill 100% . As I watch all the local families I grew up with getting priced out of their homes, or having to sell because a person just bought or built a multi million dollar home in our communities which drove their property taxes through the roof . How are we going to afford to buy our own houses ? How are our kids going to own or even rent a home here ? We need to stop people from out of state out bidding us on housing or buying houses for investments and raising our rent.
please support this bill not just for us but for the future generations of Hawaii .

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:14:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaslen Ganir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nui kākou,

My name is Chaslen Hualani Ganir and I am resident of Hawai‘i, born and raised in Puna on Hawai‘i island. Within the past ten years, I have watched the landscape and demographics of my community change drastically. Some of these changes are beyond our control, such as lava flows and hurricanes. Other changes are influenced by people with connections and wealth, for a rapid growing population in our diverse community.

A couple of years ago, I worked up to saving my money to buy a home for my family and I. After the lava flow and covid, drug addiction crept into our family, which made reaching the goal of being a homeowner much more difficult. Nevertheless, I had a good job with good benefits and some money saved up. I made a couple of offers on a couple of homes and I got declined. There were better offers being made and I needed to build my credit more. So, I stepped back and came up with a plan to build my credit and save more money. As I did so, I watched the prices for homes increase more and more. Now homes in my area are going for half a million, and my goal of being a home owner is seeming so out of reach.

It’s been really discouraging, but I work my full time job, and some side jobs as well, just to make ends meet. I love Puna. This is where generations of my family has been. I see so many of my family and friends move away because it’s easier to make a living elsewhere, but I know that I belong here, and I do what I can to remain.

I believe this bill will give the kama‘āina a better chance to be homeowners again, without competing against non-residents with more money and resources. It can help restore hope back into our communities where so many have given up. I support this bill, SB34.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Chaslen Hualani Ganir

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:17:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Kuailani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The housing market price is so high that most people who do buy is not from Hawai'i. If the people not from Hawai'i stop buying, the prices can go down.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:41:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a homeowner, born and raised here on the island of Oahu. This bill is so accurately named, as it's about time something passes that protects its residents. And why not too? The state stands to make more money by passing this bill, so not only is it about time, it makes sense. When I went through the process of buying my home in 2015, it was difficult. This was before the boom. We were outbid for several homes we were interested in. One of the homes we were outbid for was quickly renovated and resold. Likely by investors who do not live here and aren't interested in raising their children here, in the place they call home. State officials, be pono. Make the choice right for the people born here and wish to continue their family line in the only home they know. Make it easier for families to stay here and flourish. That is what's pono.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Boteilho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of SB34. We have lost many members of our family and friends who were born and raised here in Hawaii because they cannot afford to own a home of their own and raise their children here. They continue to pay increases in rent and eventually become homeless or pushed out of Hawaii. This includes educated professionals, hard working locals, and our most vulnerable populations. I have been a professional on Maui for 21 years and I am proud to say I own my own home. Since I was 18 I rented from mainland owners or transplants who owned here and made money off the backs of hard working locals. They eventually sold and took the profits elsewhere leaving us scrambling to find another place to rent. I've attempted to support other members of my family in buying and staying on Maui but they cannot afford the over million dollar homes or thousands of dollars in rent. They have all either moved off island or moved into cramped houses with their extended families. Sometimes 12+ people sharing a three bedroom home. We cannot compete with cash buyers from the mainland. Myself and my family have been bypassed by many sellers because of cash offers from the mainland only to see the house get sold for much more down the road. As a local person and community worker I have seen first hand the devastation of greed here on Maui. We need to put our people first especially when it comes to housing. We cannot continue to ignore the needs of the local people. We have already lost so much of our culture, language, and ways of being. Nothing makes me happier than hearing a local person can stay in Hawaii because they bought a home on the island they want to live on and raise their family on. There should be higher taxes and penalties for people who use Hawaii for pure profit. Please pass SB34. Keep local lands in local hands.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:58:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexander K.D. McNicoll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of **SB34**.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:23:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Estacio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a born and raised Hawaii Residents support this bill. I have whitened so many hard working family and friends who were born and raised here, paying high rent and looking to buy a home. In search for a home, outbided from a non-resident and just unable to afford a home here. Not wanting but forced to move to the mainland In order to purchase a home that they're working long and hard for.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:26:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meghan Walles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Maui resident, human service provider for my community, and a mother to Native Hawaiian children; I support SB34.

During the pandemic, Maui's stratification of wealth and poverty has been exacerbated, placing further strain and challenge on local community who have already been burdened with an economy dependent on tourism, increase in cost of living, and no increase in minimum wages to even compete to be living wages. People who do not reside here, have commodified residential housing for a chance at paradise's income. Seeing my neighbors, friends, community members get priced out of their homes is horrible. Those who have worked hard and saved for the chance to own a future home, unable to afford in this market. We have lost so much of our community in such a short amount of time. This bill is to help curb this rapid loss of housing and the insane pricing that is of current. Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Meghan Walles, LCSW

Maui Resident

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:27:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it concerns,

It has taken far too long to address the crisis of Hawaiians being pushed out of Hawai'i by investors, companies, and individuals whose only interest is to make money. I am in overwhelming support of this bill and hopeful it will be a first step in keeping our native people here and for generations to come.

Mahalo,

Kapua Kai

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:31:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rani Soren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian living in Hawai'i, I support this bill fully. I have watched relatives and neighbors being forced out of their homes due to high housing prices that continue to rise each year. The people buying them are using them as vacation homes and rentals, when locals are struggling just to make rent/mortgage each month. They buy up what they want and don't even think about the people that they are displacing, and how hard it is to not be able to afford a simple home when the competition are rich non-residents. I believe this bill will slow down the amount of people from out of state that will buy houses in Hawai'i, taking us one step in the direction of making it attainable for locals to afford to buy homes in Hawai'i again.

mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:33:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Savannah Kupihea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am a born and raised resident on the island of Kaua'i. All my life I wondered if I would ever be able to own a house and raise my kids in this place I call home! In 2020 my ohana was 3 months away from packing up our lives and moving to the mainland as we kept being out bid for every home we put a offer on! Lucky We where blessed that our tables had turned and was able to purchase a home! It saddeneds me knowing that others are not so lucky. People who come from this land are being pushed out! This bill is for our people! We desperately need this! We have seen many families being out bid by out of state buyers who 90% of the time just flip it and resale ,Making the housing market skyrocket! This bill will Give kanaka and other residents Hope! Hope that our children won't be pushed out! Hope that Hawaiians and residents can still call this place home.
mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:35:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Daigle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely a positive path to helping locals be the ones to own and reside in the homes here. The extra taxes for non locals is great, especially if that money goes toward helping locals own homes here.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:27:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non Residents shouldn't be profiting off our land. How many times do you see on Facebook market place people reselling what once was local people homes to non residents for profit. It raise our prices of rent/mortgage to a price local residents can't even afford. The state is not protecting its own land & people. Local residents need places to live! Keep Hawaiian land in Hawaiian Hands!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:32:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Statler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to deter non-residents from buying up property in Hawai'i. It truly is "About Time". We may rely on tourism here, but in no way do we rely on non-residents scooping up properties for their own use and/or profit.

Kristina Statler

Haiku, Maui

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:55:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Miranda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I first want to thank you for your time and consideration in reviewing my testimony. I am a married husband with 3 young kids. I work for a utilities company on the island, and average 60-80 hours a week. Combined income, for both my wife and I, averages \$175k a year. Every year, my dream is to own a home for my family. A place that my kids can call their own and something our family can pass on to the generations to come. It's disheartening to look at the ever raising home prices and mortgage costs. It's scary, and sad, to think that as a honest local contributor to this place we call home, our time here will unfortunately be temporary due to the fact that we will ultimately never be able to afford to buy a home suitable for our family, and stay in this place we call home. The passing of this bill would be a massive step, in a long overdue direction, to give local people a chance to buy real estate here. We are limited in available space to build, and resources financially to compete with outside markets. We hope the decision makers think about our keiki and their quality of life, over their pockets and personal financial gains.

Sincerely,

Chris

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:13:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
contessa pilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In FULL support of this bill. We need more homes for actual year round residents . Not people who want to buy their second homes or just make money off of it for vacation rentals. Hawaii is about Ohana and community.. let's keep the homes for RESIDENTS

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:19:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Espania	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a resident of Hawaii, I support this bill "About Time" SB34 to have out of state home owners be able to sell their homes the same amount they purchased it for.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:49:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Need To Keep Hawaii Hawaiian. Leave The Land To The Local People Help The Local People

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:50:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Duarte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Need to help local people to try and buy property Not gentrify our people out

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:55:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Amby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a huge crisis in Hawai'i. Generations of family, who have ties to Hawai'i and have longed lived here are getting pushed out because of foreign investors are buying Hawai'i out. Make it right for the locals of Hawai'i, for its people! Do the right thing! Does Hawai'i government care so little for its people?

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:36:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Piimauna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii, born and raised, I fully support this bill and what it represents for our people.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:41:43 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pomai Ciotti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It had been my dream to own a house on this island, not only because it is the place that I grew up, but more as a native Hawaiian. After looking at house after house and seeing that people from out of town were paying over asking price (which was already high), luckily at 30, I purchased a home. We were fortunate that we had some help and were able to save from the collective 4 jobs we were working. That's 4 jobs just to be able to sort of afford it. It is hard to imagine that this land that we love so much has become so out of reach for many because of the soaring home prices. How will our children be able to live here? How can we better provide for our lahui if they can't even have a roof over their head to call their own. I get so frustrated with people not from here buying and taking everything because they have money, yet not being able to invest the love, the responsibility and care that comes along with living here, to most out of towners, Hawai'i has become just a side hustle to provide them extra income or as their getaway, not contributing anything to our communities. How can you protect Hawai'i without those that have their whole life memories here, how can Aloha live without the local people who live it everyday, how can you have Hawai'i without Hawaiians. We need to pass this "it's about time" bill so that our local communities can thrive because our lahui has a place that is there's and not run by outsiders looking to make some money. We need to do better!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:53:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Y	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to submit my written testimony in support for SB34 "about time" bill relating to amending Hawaii's current tax withholdings for real estate sales for non Hawaii residents. According to a December 2022 Locations Hawaii real estate report, the average sale price for 216 homes sold in Hawaii was over 1.3 million dollars. The median price was over 1 million dollars. That puts home ownership out of reach for far too many Hawaii residents. While the long term solution is to increase supply & build more affordable housing, passing this bill would at least be a start & a welcome signal that lawmakers understand the housing crisis facing the people of Hawaii.

There are many factors that affect the supply of available homes in Hawaii. 2 such factors are non-resident investors buying up Hawaii's limited supply of available housing, which is what this bill seeks to address, & the military. The average US military BAH (base allowance housing) for personal living off base is \$2,700 a month. This drives up rent prices, & lowers supply. However, at least the military personnel are in Hawaii, supporting local businesses, & paying taxes in Hawaii. The same can't necessarily always be said for non-resident investors. Passing this bill, won't solve the whole housing crisis, but you have to start somewhere.

Mahalo,

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:54:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Ka'aekuahiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB34. If it is able to deter others from profiting from the sales of Hawaii properties and having 75% or even higher of those profits paid in taxes, then buy all means I feel like it's a start . Hawaii residents are leaving their homes here in the island to go elsewhere because they can't afford to buy here. It truly is an "About Time" bill , that I support 100%.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:02:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra M Javar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT SB 34.

We have too much foreign real estate investors. They buy our properties and deplete our limited supply of houses. Hawai'i has extremely limited land space. We need that space for our Native Hawaiian people. Our Native Hawaiian people should NOT be moving away because they can no longer live here. The foreigners should not even be allowed to buy our precious lands. Mahalo.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:14:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Mulleitner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian and kama'āina I support this bill on behalf of other kama'āina struggling to survive here and the others that had no other option but to leave their 'one hānau.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:41:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailea Moikeha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair & members of the Judiciary committee,

I am a single mom of two, kind, loving and intelligent boys living on a single income, paying almost the same amount in rent as I do for childcare for my youngest. I never want to have to tell them that we have to move from the island that they we have cultural ties to, that our ancestors are buried on, because we get priced out of our home.

You don't need to be any kind of expert to see that the people who are buying homes in Hawaii have no ties, and are using them to flip and make a profit or turn it into secondary income or a vacation home, meanwhile local families are working several jobs just to be able to afford rent, let alone food. It's an endless vicious circle of hopelessness. I am asking you to please support this bill and push it forward to help build a better community and a better future for our keiki.

Mahalo,

Kailea Moikeha

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:49:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal O'Reilly-Morales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

My name is Crystal Ann Leina'ala O'Reilly Morales. I was born on the Island of O'ahu as were my parents. My mothers family can be traced back many generations and has a strong Hawaiian genealogy. I am writing in favor of SB34.

My husband and I work full time jobs and make a good living. However with home prices being scooped up by forgein investors and people from the continental US priced have become outrageous. People come from out of state and pay well above asking; while people like me, a resident, unable to match their offer gets left behind. It forces people to move off Island to live the dream of owning a home.

I am in favor of this bill because WE need a chance! We need to be able to stop paying 4,000 dollar rents or relocating just because we can't make it here. It is unfair to sell the land to those

who are using it for mercenary purposes or coming and flipping it to sell for well above what they paid.

I believe this bill will be beneficial to all residents. It will help put the residents at the fore front and keep our families home. It will help with the outrageous housing crises and make homeownership not just a dream but something attainable. I myself rent at 4,000 dollars a month. How can I save? How will I own a home? I believe in my na'au that this is a start.

Mahalo councilmembers for taking the time to read my testimony we all need to do better for the people; think of our people.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:49:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davilyn KLC Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With the housing market dominated by foreign and non-local investors, the people of Hawai'i are robbed of the opportunity to remain on their native land. Property values skyrocket due to investors buying properties over the asking prices. The majority of locals are barely middle class and can't afford to buy their own home or even afford the rent that investors impose.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:24:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Somera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe a bill like this will make it easier for local families to buy homes by deterring non-residents from buying in Hawaii for the sake of profit. This will help in the long run to prevent property values from continuing to skyrocket.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:40:21 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB34. There is no argument that we are in a housing crisis in Hawaii. This was the top issue being discussed in the recent election. Yet the governor is only presenting solutions that have to do with building more homes/condos/affordable housing. THIS is not the issue. We have enough homes to house all local residents. The issue is that these homes are being bought out by non-resident investors. We do not need to see charts to see this (although the stats also show that 25% of homes were bought by non-residents, and local buyers are decreasing across the state). All we need to do is talk to 5 resident friends and ask them about their housing story. One family friend moves out of Hawaii every year because they cannot afford to live here. My friends who both have a full time job went home searching to raise their child in. They looked at a farm lot near us in Kahalu'u, O'ahu. A representative for an international investor walked into the house showing and bought the home with cash in hand with more money than it was listed for. The investor did not even go in person to see the home. My friends didn't stand a chance. We locals that have been born and raised, or Hawaiian, or been living in hawaii for 10-20-30 years deserve a better chance to own a home. Why are we all renting for \$2000+ a month and paying foreign landlords? Why are politicians allowing this push out of locals and allowing foreign buyers? Because the state makes more "money" with these investors that pay more than the market price and bring in more non-residents for tourism. Senator Awa has one answer of many in tackling the housing crisis at its source issue. This is only the beginning to a solution. Make it more difficult for people that shouldn't be buying out homes in Hawaii. Giving locals a chance at life in the place they grew up. New Zealand has done this, Canada as well. Hawaii should be able to do this. The argument that this is not Constitutional is not an argument to bring in. Unless the State of Hawaii wants to address why Hawaii is not a State of America in the first place.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:47:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawena	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my support for Senate Bill 34, the "About Time" Bill, which seeks to prevent non-resident homebuyers from purchasing property in Hawaii. As a Native Hawaiian, fortunate to be born and raised in Hawaii, I have witnessed first-hand the generational struggles of trying to afford to land and property in the face of the high cost of living in Hawaii.

The high cost of living in Hawaii has devastated the Native Hawaiian community, leading to a persistent problem of homelessness and poverty. It is unacceptable that so many Native Hawaiians are being pushed out of their lands and communities by the high cost of housing. This is why it is so important to prioritize the needs of Native Hawaiians and other local residents over the interests of non-resident homebuyers. Owning land and property is a basic human right, and we must work to ensure that this right is protected for the people who call Hawaii their home.

The "About Time" Bill has the potential to make a real difference in the lives of local residents by giving us a fighting chance to own property in the place we call home. It is about time that we prioritize the needs of Native Hawaiians and other local residents over the interests of foreign investors.

In conclusion, I urge the Hawaii State Legislature to pass Senate Bill 34 and help make the dream of owning a home a reality for local residents like myself.

Thank you for your consideration.

ke aloha,

Kawena Lorenzo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:06:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nikoya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am 100% in support of this bill.

This bill will ensure that more local families and k̄naka will be able to live and thrive in Hawai‘i, and not be displaced due to foreign and out of state interest. It will not deter the rich people who can afford to buy property, but it will definitely help to deter those who have been looking to Hawai‘i as a place to "settle down" making the price to live in Hawai‘i out of their proce point.

I am excited that this will is finally been created.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:06:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle rose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill and just wish it could have been passed 10 years ago.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:16:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara DePonte	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

My name is Tara DePonte, and I am a Hawaiian (37-year Hawaii Resident) currently living overseas. Four years ago, I moved from Hawai'i Island to Aotearoa New Zealand. I sold my home on Hawai'i Island in September 2022.

As a current Non-Resident Hawaiian, the recent sale of my home was subject to HARPTA withholding. While I do not oopose HARPTA for the sale of property by Non-Residents, I do take issue with being subject to HARPTA as a Hawaiian and, other than my four years in Aotearoa New Zealand, a lifelong Hawaii Resident.

I am submitting testimony today to ask that consideration be given to those in my situation - current Non-Resident Hawaiians living out of state or overseas or those who will be considered Non-Resident Hawaiians who move out of state in the future. While, yes, we are or would be technically Non-Residents, we are Hawaiian. To subject indigenous people - Hawaiians - to HARPTA withholding seems wildly cruel and unjust.

I fully understand that extending a partial or complete exemption to those in my situation may be difficult to structure - I just ask that this particular situation be given adequate consideration from all angles in the authoring of this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Tara DePonte

February 6, 2023

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I write this testimony in support of Bill SB34 and with much respect for those who are putting forth effort to prevent out of state residents from purchasing and reselling homes in Hawaii as a money making opportunity.

In 2019 we already has a shortage of affordable homes for our people of Hawaii and now 2023, I myself am seeing family and friends in homeless situations because of the cost to purchase a home is out of reach and homes for rent has almost doubled.

If we don't do something now...what will Hawaii look like 5, 10, 20 years down the road? My fear is that, there will be no affordable homes for our children, grandchildren, families and homelessness will increase largely.

We have allowed out of state residents to take advantage of our housing market and at the same time we sit here and watch our people struggle. We have to stop the bleeding and prevent the out of state residents from using us as their cash cow.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to testify and I humbly ask you to vote in favor of BILL SB34.

Malama Pono,

Bambi Lau

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:33:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Browning	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family has been affected by the rising cost of property on Oahu. In 2014, we left the Hawaii for California, as rent costs were too high for a family of 6. We returned in 2021, in hopes to start anew, selling our purchase California home only to find that costs had risen dramatically due to the pandemic. Unable to afford to purchase, we moved back to California.

After reviewing this bill, I believe this does very little (if anything) to help local families. A dramatic raise in the tax on disposition would have a negative impact on our housing market. Non-residents who currently own property would be discouraged from selling their property, to residents and non-residents alike. If they did sell, it would theoretically increase the likelihood of a significantly higher sale price to account for the increased tax.

More needs to be done to support the sale of property to residents vs non-residents. Furthermore, energy needs to be put forth to address the income disparities between residents of Hawaii and the rest of the country. Residents should not have to work multiple jobs to put food on the table.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:36:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:47:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johna Manoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB34

The reason for this is to decrease amount of out of state interests in land and properties so it's affordable for Hawaii residences.

Thank you!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:17:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise fa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to be able to own something for our kids. My parents died with out leaving anything for us. Want this to pass so we can bye a house to leave my kids.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:26:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ITS ABOUT TIME!!! Anything that will give a better chance for local homeownership. I support this bill. Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:27:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kau'i Baumhofer Merritt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of O'ahu who is unable to purchase my own home due to the exorbitant prices of housing, I fully support this bill. Something needs to be done to help Hawai'i families to purchase homes rather than be displaced by non-residents who are gentrifying our islands. Mahalo.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:32:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a native Hawaiian who is yet to own my own land and house I support this bill

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:36:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Sumner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Sabrina Sumner, Hawai'i citizen and resident, support the 'About Time' bill on preventing non-residents from buying homes in Hawai'i. We need to house locals and Kanaka Maolis communities first and foremost before anyone else. Put the PEOPLE of HAWAII FIRST!! Without locals or Kanaka Maolis, there would be no Hawai'i. We are tired of seeing families move away because they cannot afford to be at their home state while the rich and elite corporates profit from other foreign entities from allowing the true Hawai'i citizens to live in their homeland.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:42:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ainaaloha W Ioane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a native Hawaiian to these lands and am a multigenerational ‘ohana of Moku o Keawe, Hawai‘i Island. My ‘ohana lineage spans the breath of Human existence on these islands. Hawai‘i holds a rich human history, beginning with the settlement of the Native Hawaiian peoples, the unifying of the islands under one monarchy, the melting pot of ethnicities in a combined effort of economic sovereignty, the overthrow and the theft of our sovereignty by foreign interest.

Residences in Hawaii have been controlled for too long by outside interest, controlling the price of our food, and housing. We have been pushed out of our own homes, by people with more money than us.

It is heartbreaking to constantly worry about where my keiki will be able to live in the future when non-residents continue to buy up property and resale it for outrageous prices. We need protection from our governments to help Local residents continue to live at home.

My keiki have a right to live where their kupuna lived, where their spirituality is tied to aina.

Me ke aloha Haahaa, Thank you so much for protecting Hawaii’s people.

Ainaaloha W. Ioane

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:53:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelynn Broad-Kela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I was born in Honolulu Hawaii in 1963, and my husband I was fortunate enough to buy a home here in Kailua, Hawaii in 1998 where we raised our two daughters. Unfortantly now I see so many of my family and friends children having to move away off island to the mainland to be able to afford a life of their own for their families. This Bill will help our Keiki to be able to purchase homes in Hawaii and not move off Island where majority have no family, or friends. This bill will help local residents to have a chance to not get outbid by non-residence.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:58:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ella Aki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha nō,

I strongly support this bill!

Mahalo nui e Senator Brenton Awa for introducing this bill.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ella Aki

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:08:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haunani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I strongly support SB34. We're a family of 8 and have experienced first hand the upward trend in home prices here in Hawai'i. Too many are buying up homes as a business transaction! Having a home is a basic necessity that too many are not able to afford now!

This bill is one pice of the pie. There are many other factors that are affecting our Hawai'i Market so humbly we're starting here.

Yes to SB 34!!!!!!!!!!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:10:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalanipo Sawyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to find a way to keep Hawai'i residents in Hawai'i. Our local residents are moving away because they can't afford to live here. Please help keep our local residents in Hawai'i

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:21:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The real estate market in Hawaii is out of control and near impossible for locals to achieve home ownership. Investors are a major contributor to the current market sales and rental prices. I support this bill as a first step to resetting market prices.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:31:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony cabais	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I highly support SB34, we have to save Hawai'i by saving the people who has taken care of Hawai'i from. Generations to generation. I would like the bill to be a residents of not only two but five years before buying homes in Hawai'i. To educate the visitors on our life style, culture, sustainably & how Aloha is valued.

In one to two years, you already have military buying our homes & land. in one or two years while they are on there four year term they are living the life comfortable while our own people of Hawaii are hoiseless.

I say five years, we're they can't buy in there four years term.

Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:02:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiiaka Jardine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hi'iaka Jardine and I strongly support this bill. As a lifelong resident of Kahalu'u I have seen first hand how drastically the price of housing has increased. Therefore making homeownership nearly impossible for local residents. I strongly believe that this bill has the potential to make strides for local residents in achieving homeownership. I strogly urge you to consider passing this bill for our local residents and to create opportunities for our children to be homeowners.

Mahalo,

Hi'iaka Jardine

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:23:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew C. Linden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The cost of housing has more than doubled in the past several years and far outpaced even the most generous increases in wages. Two reason for this are out of state "vacation homes" and remote workers who fly under the radar, not paying income tax in Hawaii. This bill would help to allievate both of these issues, allowing the state to recoup significant tax revenue being evaded by individuals and at the same time encouraging affordable housing for those who call Hawaii home. Aloha, Dr. Matthew C. Linden.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:38:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmaline Padeken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. Also the criteria for exemption needs to include those that do not file State of Hawaii income tax, not just a nonresident. Also, please consider adding language that states that one needs to file State of Hawaii income taxes for minimum five consecutive years before a HARPTA/FIRPTA exemption will apply.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Waipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. We need homes for everyone that is born raised or call Hawai'i home and is here to stay.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 12:58:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zada simao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in support of this bill. Hawaii residents, Hawaiian families are being pushed out of their own lands because no one can afford to live here. We need something to be done to help local families to live. Housing to be affordable.

Mahalo nui.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:03:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this and believe that non-residents should pay more. Hawaii has a housing problem and this can help.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:03:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Leilani Dudoit Huihui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Crystal Leilani Huihui, I am a native Hawaiian and I support SB34. There is a housing crisis here in Hawaii. There is much more that needs to be done but this is one step closer to keeping Hawaiians in Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:19:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Definitely raise property taxes for those who are non residents, too many people are leaving and so is the aloha. At the rate Hawaii is being sold out now, there will be no place to call home.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:32:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emi Nollar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In consideration of bill SB34 I, Emi Nollar, am in full support of seeing this bill pass through legislation for approval. The importance of SB34 and what it outlines is something that I believe will significantly impact Hawai'i residents, especially native residents, within even the next five years in Hawai'i, if not passed. The housing market has sky rocketed in just the last 3 years, and being born & raised in Hawai'i has helped me to see & experience first hand, the true struggle we as residents in Hawai'i have to face each day in trying to get by. Housing has become so catered towards outsiders that for them, houses in Hawai'i are more like a collection on a shelf. This then factors in the process of non-residents being able to either turn purchases into vacation destination rentals, or have these homes just sitting throughout most of the year as they claim "residency" both in Hawai'i as well as their own home states. In turn, that impacts the residents here trying to purchase homes for their local families, while fighting the market uprise and making it nearly impossible to own a home here as a born Hawai'i native. I personally think it is the saddest and hardest thing to be apart of, to witness, and to see first hand the struggles of reality that we face as residents here. The cold hard truth is that if we don't act now, all of Hawai'i and the homes here are at higher risk for being sold off into the hands of non-Hawaiians& non-residents, who truly don't see the special culture that we are losing-and fast. Along with losing the ability to be able to live in our own home lands, we continue to face the hardships that were forced upon us, when our culture and sovereignty was overthrown and shaped into the American way. Many local residents have been forced to move out of their home state, and find housing in other more affordable states as a means to make it possible for them to survive, and to begin the process of owning their own homes. How sad that we are being forced out of our native lands, our home, and that the housing market is the biggest influence on that decision as a local.

The American way is to finally your own home, isn't it ? Yet ironically, the residents of Hawaii who were initially forced to accept this "American way", all face the near impossibility for us to live as such.

I humbly ask that this Bill SB34, be approved for the sake of saving Hawai'i, in what may be our last chance to do so. Without Hawaiians, there is no Hawai'i.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:38:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Lyman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

I am a long time resident of Hawai'i, born and raised, and am in complete support of this bill and its intent to prevent non residents from being able to profit off of the buying and selling of real estate in Hawai'i. I think it's a creative and fair way to support that issue with the proposal of imposing the 100% capital gains tax on non residents.

Furthermore, I would also like to see something done about closing any possible loop holes for any non residents to be able to circumvent this new proposed tax law. For example, the possibility of gaining residency status for a period of time in order to avoid the 100% tax rate.

I am also wondering if this bill will be enough of a solution to the ridiculously high priced housing market as gentrification by mainland transplants has been a HUGE problem in Hawai'i as well. I'm afraid that this bill will only cover the issue of investment properties, but it won't truly alleviate the rising housing costs because it will not be able to prevent people from buying altogether, it will only be a deterrent to investing. It is very disheartening to know that so many born and raised locals, and especially Kānaka Maoli, have had to make the difficult decision to leave their place of birth and homeland in order to be able to live an affordable life. It's just plain WRONG. It's also a personal frustration for me that many mainlanders who move here want to change Hawai'i to be more like where they came from. I realize the "State" has had to follow the U.S. constitution, which disallows our government to prevent mainlanders from purchasing homes and/or land here, but I would love to see some way to make that a reality. Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Mahalo nui.....Shawn Lyman

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:58:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daven Roy Manubag-Kuloloia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor for SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 1:59:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willow Vales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor for SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:01:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Ledbetter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill and what it stands for. It stands for giving locals and tax paying families a chance to purchase a home of their own. It minimizes non-tax payers from purchasing a home in Hawaii just so they can make a profit. Now please help your state tax payers by increasing their chances to become homeowners by passing this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:01:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mailani makainai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill as it wards off outside investors from buying property in Hawai'i. This has been a problem for local families for generations now. And we are in the housing crisis we are in because of how non residential investments have affected our local market. Currently we have 3 generational housing issues. I can attest to this personally. Some local families have 4 generations living in home. How are we going to build a future for our local families if we are allowing this kind of egregious outside non residential purchases ?

Therefore, I support this bill. Mahalo !

MM

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:06:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pakalana Helekahi-Kaiwi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in FULL support of this bill. I am a native Hawaiian born & raised here in Hawai'i and I know this will benefit us Hawaiians and give us the opportunity to be able to own land and a home here in the islands where we belong. Mahalo Awa!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:12:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarence Yamamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a present homeowner, I strongly support SB 34 as written. It is something that's long overdue to help our residents stay in Hawaii and not have to leave because they cannot afford to own a home here.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:12:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaiwahine Foster-Blomfield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in FULL support of this bill. As a native Hawaiian born and raised here in Hawai'i, I truly believe this will benefit us as the people of this land. It will provide us with an opportunity to own our land here in Hawai'i and stay here where we belong. Mahalo Awa!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:16:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Give the keiki of Hawai'i a chance to buy a home to live. Rather than non residents buying to build equity then selling to make money.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:43:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richell Sweet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaiian born and raised here in the islands I strongly support this bill. Non Hawaii residents should not be able to purchase real estate without being a resident. If immigrants can't live in the United States without applying for citizenship, background, checks, income and the process is lengthy. It should not be so easy for immigrants to buy housing. Because there's no restriction it is causing foreigners to purchase housing and driving up cost which is making it impossible for local families to buy homes and find places to rent. Please help the local families stay in homes and purchase homes for future generations.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:15:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rozanna Varize	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. We need to keep Hawaii for the locals! Stop mainlanders from out pricing us and forcing us to move from our homes.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:17:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth kirby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this proposal to increase tax on out of nonresident home buyers/owners. As a hawaii born 34 year old the dream of buying a home here has been dwindling due to these nonresident buyers/owners. Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:25:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:32:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawahinehaaheo Keolanui	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, i support SB34. Our islands are being bought and sold by the highest bidder and has become a playground for real estate buy & sale. Non-residents should not have the luxury of buying up majority of real-estate in Hawai'i and reselling to the highest foreigner. This is constantly putting kanaka, real locals families and farmers in last place when finding a place to live here in Hawai'i where we belong. We are tired of seeing our people leave Hawai'i because we are being priced out. Please support this bill SB34 so your kids, grandkids & great grandkids will have an oppourtunity to live and thrive in Hawai'i as Hawaiians.

Mahalo nui

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:39:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Easter K. Logan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help reduce the amount of non residents buying property and housing in Hawaii. Give us locals a better chance of buying.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:55:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Navin Tagore-Erwin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is home, not an investment. We have more houses than houseless. We can't afford to live here, but investors are allowed to hoard our housing market. Please support this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 3:55:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn casey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, As a California Native a substitute teacher, a Realtor, and step mom of 2 beautiful boys born in Kailua Kona Hawaii I fully support this Bill. I see first hand people buying 2nd and third homes for profit. People don't understand how bad this hurts Hawaiians and other residents from the competition of foriegn investment. This Bill should have been set 20+ years ago so it would be foolish to not put it in affect immediately.
mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:21:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoey Kalahiki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34 to increase the tax rate on profits made from selling homes for non residents. I believe that this will help the locals to slow down the rise of the median homes prices and keep more local families from being priced out.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:22:45 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethan baggs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am 24 year old who was born and raised on maui. I work hard everyday running my own business. I hope to be able to afford a house one day that my family can live in, but the way things are right now it's almost impossible. Things are only going to get worse if there is not a change and Hawaii will never be the same without its people. The amount of wealth that is moving here is pushing hard working families out. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:26:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KAUAKEA MATA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe and support this bill as it is the first step in supporting the native people of Hawaii (Hawaiians) to be able to continue living here with the intent to own or buy. We need to keep our people here, this is where we belong and this is where our keiki deserve to grow up.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:54:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Santiago Dominici	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill. It's hard as an adult here already to be able to afford a decent place here in Hawaii. Let alone to think for future kids. How are they going to be able to grow up and be able to afford a place to buy here by the time they reach that age. I feel that they should stop people trying to make money off of the people of Hawaii, who's lived here all their lives and have to be forced to move to the mainland to be able to supply some type of happiness and land for their family. We don't want our families to move away. We also don't want people to come here and see us as a quick investment for their portfolio.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:56:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lokahi Barbieto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I support this bill. As a native Hawaiian I'd love to be able to purchase my own house in hawaii I feel this bill will support that. Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 4:56:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Bento	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support SB34 for the simple fact that something needs to change. Hawaii has been abused for far too long in many ways. However on this topic, buying a home in hawaii has become unrealistic for native hawaiian families and for many low class families that have been here for generations. I feel this is a step in the right direction.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:09:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelley Porter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a local, born and raised here for 6 generations, I support this bill and want to see this go through. Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:12:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emma desa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a sophomore at Kamehameha schools and it breaks my heart to see so many Hawaiians struggling to buy houses in Hawai'i because of non locals coming here and buying land. I'm getting closer and closer to growing up and soon going to be able to make a living for myself. I can only hope that when that time comes i'm able to live in Hawai'i and have my future family grow up here. This is our land, our land that is sacred and holds so much beauty. Seeing my people move to the mainland because of how unaffordable housing is here makes me sick to my stomach. We shouldn't be chased out of our own land because some rich mainlanders see it as a place to make money. These things happen to Hawaiians again and again and again. Overthrowing our queen was enough. We deserve to be heard and deserve to receive the authority of OUR land. It's 2023, be the change to make things right.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:26:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Khadijah Plunkett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a next generation Hawaiian here in Hawaii, being surrounded by my Ohana who have owned their land, taken pride and care into their land that they wrongfully pay for! We've noticed a huge rise in houseless Hawaiians, not because they cannot afford to own their homeland but because outsiders come into our homes with larger dollar signs and demand the land. They push people out of what is rightfully theirs, and to us as humans know that that isn't right! Us locals should have the right to own homes here in a place where we have grown up. Not the outsiders getting what they want with their greedy hands. By putting this law into action it will fix the houseless situation with have here in Hawaii. It will make homes more affordable for locals and it will stop occupying space for visitors! Think about the people, before you think about the money!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 5:33:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanson Gentry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe this bill should be passed because it will prevent those who are not from here from profiting off of hawaiian land. it is important to support locals buying homes in hawaii because this island is already becoming overpopulated with people who do not belong here.

Mahalo,

a concerned high school student in Hawaii

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:11:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that this bill will benefit local residents like myself to decrease the ridiculous price of homes or land in Hawai'i Nei. This bill should have been approved ages ago before the average price of a home got into the millions. Let's allow the people of Hawai'i remain in Hawai'i!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:12:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kale sylva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:14:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shenell Caldeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am in support of this bill! I currently am a licensed financial professional, educating families in financial education and I am a realtor on the Big Island of Hawaii. I got my real estate license so that I could help local first time homebuyers or help local Investors buy to flip homes to be sold to more local families. We need to allow more local residents the opportunity to purchase homes. During Covid, homes were being bought over asking price, sight unseen? This pushed the median prices up making it impossible for local families to have the opportunity to purchase. I have two sisters that moved to the mainland because the opportunity for them to own a home here was out of reach for them as it was for a lot of families that had to move. Then we have those who purchased outside of Hawaii renting homes that is over the normal monthly mortgage amount where even renting is now out of reach for some 'ohana. We need to cool down this market so that we can see more local families have the opportunity to stay not move away because they want to not because they simply can't afford to.

Please take this bill into consideration so we aren't forcing more families to move.

Mahalo for your time!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:15:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Kahalepauole-Bizik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this Bill and look forward to it getting approved. Native Hawaiians have been getting forced out of the Hawaiian Islands- their own homeland for decades. Something needs to be done!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:41:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Honig McCarthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I am submitting testimony in support of SB34. I am a Native Hawaiian and I believe we should put Native Hawaiians first in Hawaii and not allow any more Non residents access to purchase homes in Hawaii. Canada recently just banned non Canadians from purchasing homes in their home land as well due to the excessive purchasing from outside investors that drove pricing so far out of reach for their residents and I believe we can do the same for our Residents of Hawaii. When the majority of Homeless in Hawaii are Native Hawaiians and the median house price is 1.15 million dollars how can an average working family compete with buyers with multiple properties to be used as their investment and vacation properties and they don't even live in Hawaii. I implore you to please pass this bill so we can ensure our next generation of Native Hawaiians and local residents aren't either forced into homelessness or to move away.

Mahalo,

Irene Honig-McCarthy

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:45:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne dorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill 34 - please vote to pass this bill

mahalo

Suzanne Dorn

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:05:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jaerick medeiros-garcia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34 this bill is very much needed here and now. Because of corrupt politics here in Hawaii. The very things that drawn people to Hawaii, our aloha spirit that once was highly contagious along with integrity and consideration for others is no longer a thing and the way things have been playing out with non residents from around the world buying up all our lands and homes.it's sad to see and know that soon these politicians will be finding a way to rename Hawaii. In fact some politicians are already referring to Hawaii as the U.S islands. That is horrible. We really need to rise the Hawaiian Kingdom government. For a better Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:07:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Dorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support Bill SB34. We need to raise the tax on Luxury Home Profits. This increased tax is necessary to protect our real estate market from the current levels of extreme exploitation and to ensure that we are collecting revenue from these types of large sales. The revenue collected can be used to assist our local residents. We can use the Tax money collected to assist our Affordable Housing programs. And hopefully, this will also act as a deterrent for price-gouging, profit-seeking, house-flippers, that do not intend to live in these properties. Please Pass Bill SB34.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:09:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Kidd	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I agree the cost of housing needs to be brought under control, attempting to enforce a Hawaiian residency for buying a home is extremely discriminatory. Additionally, is this even enforceabl constitutionally? Other measures can and should be taken to ensure that the people who but here, live here. Non-residency taxes would be a better first start.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:24:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carol lee kamekona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am in TOTAL support of SB34. We need to Tax the million dollar mansions that are being built for greed and profit by offshore investors and hungry developers. There are several upcoming projects on Maui starting at \$3mil. Our Local residents CANNOT afford those homes! Our salaries are NOT comparable to the cost of living. Thereby these projects are making where our people, the Indigenous Peoples of this 'Āina can't even afford to live in THEIR own homeland! I wholeheartedly support this Bill!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:24:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
seth ilae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Seth Ilae and I strongly support this bill! it's about time that local people get a chance at buying their own home with out all this foreign people interfering and buying our island!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:12:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Cummins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am born and raised on this beautiful island of Oahu. I am an esthetician and I see many people daily. I am for this bill because I feel it is important for my children's future here. I have watched this place be sold to the highest bidder. And have seen many who are not from here do it for a profit. Non residents that buy here for profit do not appreciate our home. They only see this place as a way to make money. Which has had many repercussions of our local residence. Forcing them to move because they cannot afford to live here. In my line of work I see many clients. Over the many years I have had lots of clients that buy here that are not from here only planning to sell for a profit. With no intention of staying here. I find another thing is they buy so they can rent to those who can afford their ridiculous monthly rents. (To make a profit and to pay their mortgage cause they don't live on island. When the time is right and the market is up they sell.) Which the only people that can afford it are the military cause they get a high BAH. And have no problem paying 4000 - 5000 monthly rents. I think to buy here is a privilege. But more so our home should be cherished and respected. I do understand that as an American we do have a free system. But our resources are limited on the island.

I to have looked in to moving and buying in another state with my family cause it's too expensive to purchase a home here and make ends meet. My husband and I went and looked but the one thing that I kept thinking is "Oahu is my home" and I want my children to grow up here in the islands.

So PLEASE I think it is time to help out the local residence have a chance to buy here. And if non residence do want to buy they can but not for profit. By passing this bill I think it will help a lot with our housing shortages for our local residence.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:27:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah-Lyn Kaeo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:30:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Gage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It will help ownership of residents, stay with residents. Hopefully will deter outside investors from pricing out the people of Hawaii.

Thank you

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:50:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pelenatita Namoa-Hanusa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

First I would like to thank Mr. Awa for listening to the people of Hawai'i. It is not a secret that the people have been suffering a great deal at the hands of non-residents when it comes to buying homes on lands where many of us are born and raised.

We the people simply think it makes the most sense for the bill to pass as a stepping g to stone for local people to be able to buy homes where we would like our future generations to raise their families. What doesn't make sense is allowing non residents to buy at all when they are not full time residents of the islands. They do not contribute to paying taxes from their paychecks to pay for government jobs as the full time residents do. If a person, entity, LLC., etc. doesn't lose a considerable amount of each of their paychecks to improve state infrastructure then why should they have any business buying up property for property? It should be solely for residents who contribute. Residents who want to see their families stay on the islands.

I support this bill! I hope we do more in the future to prevent further desecration of the housing market for the people.

Mahalo nui loa.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:01:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaile Puaoi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. It is only a start in the right direction to save our lands and to helping to ensure that the rightful stewards of this land, be given the opportunity to Malama the source of provision that will feed and house our families for another 7 generations, and 7 generations past that.

I am in hopes that this bill will help to deter the investors and military families who have NO RELATIONS to this land, to think twice about their decision to only look at our land for profit and thier personal gain, rather than see it as an integral piece of the health of our people, no matter what race the people of Hawaii are.

Kamaile Puaoi

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:10:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Bright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:17:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nahoku Kahana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina mai ke aloha!

I am writing in favor of SB33, to prevent nonresidents to buy homes in Hawai'i. The bones of my ancestors rest here in these soil for more than 200 generations. In 1993, President Bill Clinton signed the Public Law 103-150 "Apology Resolution" offering an apology for the illegal occupation and robbery of Hawai'i, a sovereign nation. It is our right as Native Hawaiians to self-determination. In order for us Native Hawaiians to live self-determination we need to acquire the 'āina (land) of Hawai'i. Without 'āina we as Native Hawaiian have been stripped from our identity. To us Native Hawaiians 'āina is not something that we look at as a possession in which can be purchased because this is our life-giving source. To foreign investors, they have no consciousness, understanding, nor respect for our cultural belief and practices that our 'āina possesses. Like the Māori of Aotearoa, this should be the least that we as Native Hawaiians should receive. Ke 'olu'olu, please consider SB33.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Nāhōkū Kahana

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:25:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Kaikala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Momi Kaikala, I'm 55 years old & I live in Pukalani, Maui. My husband & I bought our 3 bed/2 bath home for under \$300,000 in 1994 for our family of 5. This is unheard of today but in order for my children to own a home on Maui, let alone on the street that they were raised on, please support this bill. Homes on our street are selling for more than \$1 million as outsiders are offering more than the list price. We need to stop home prices from skyrocketing due to outside speculation. We need to keep the housing pool for those already living here. Give my children a chance to buy a home on Maui by supporting SB34. Mahalo!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:37:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer acoba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is important to keep families in Hawaii! As a Real Estate Broker I have seen the immense hardship local families have trying to get a home here in Hawaii. Priority should be given to full time residents of Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:39:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Konaneakamahina de la Nux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB34 because non-residents who have investment properties here in Hawai'i are contributing to the high cost of living resulting in many local residents having to move to the continent or pushing them into houselessness. We need to deinsensitize investment properties in order to save our residents from adverse living situations.

I think this bill is a good start to combating the housing crisis here in Hawai'i.

02/06/2023

Dear Honorable Members of the Legislative Committee,

My name is Vakeesha Lagazo, and I was born and raised on Kauai, Hawaii. I am testifying today in support of SB34 A Bill for An Act Relating to Taxation (About Time Bill.)

Currently, I do not live in the state of Hawaii and part of that reason, would be because I am unable to buy my own home there and making ends meet there, would be nearly impossible. On the other hand, the rest of my ohana still lives there. I believe that with the raise in taxation for non-residential buyers/owners of homes will greatly benefit those who reside on the islands. My family has resided on Kauai for decades and it is very difficult for them to even buy their own homes. Limiting the number of non-residential buyers, would be a small step, in giving more of a chance to residents to own their home. This is just a possible start to provide a foundation for people who already reside in Hawaii. It's a start in preserving the community by keeping families from having to move out of their homeland. It will keep Hawaii, Hawaii. Speaking as a person, who wishes to move back home, this would be a great step forward, in making it easier for others like me to move back to be with their families.

Please consider supporting this bill.

Thank you for your time and efforts.

Sincerely,

Vakeesha Lagazo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:44:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sara mcdiarmid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am in full support of this bill. This is in the hopes that it will deter outsiders/foreigners from buying land or houses. We are not their playground simply because they needed to run away from their lives or find peace elsewhere...this is OUR home.

my husband and I both have our own businesses and yet are still struggling to even purchase a home since the housing market is insanely high priced and nothing affordable to even look at.

As a native Hawaiian, I feel it is my kuleana to make sure my grandchildren and their grandchildren have a place in our future home. This is not just some tourist attraction (even though many outsiders will differ in opinion) Hawaii is OUR aina and home and we need to take care of her and STOP raising prices to fulfill deep pockets.

please listen to all those who support this bill! Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:45:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahaina Grance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian I support this bill

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:47:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hi'ilawe Grance	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleikaimana Mo'okini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Myself and my Ohana support this bill wholeheartedly. There is only one phrase that needs to cry out from the mouths of my sovereign people of this land. **Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono.** If you don't understand what this means let me translate. "**The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness.**" The definition of righteousness: The quality of being morally right or justifiable. The life of our land is dying. From mountains, to our water, to our beaches, to our animals, to our culture and to our voices, we are dying. Hawai'ian land, homes and families have been mistreated for too long. There is nothing morally right or justifiable in that. Let us remain here, let us teach here, let us grow here, let us love our 'āina as she should be and once was loved.

Mahalo for your time.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:03:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare DeCamp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There should be more rules and regulations protecting the land of Hawai'i from tourists, and reserving it for the people born and raised here.

Not only should non residents be taxed, they should have to take a mandatory 1yr. Hawaiian cultural education class to understand why the quality of life here is so prosperous.

Every minute of everyday Hawai'i is being extorted by people who don't contribute to the community in any way. Homes are being bought and pushing generations of families out. It has now become billionaires, multi millionaires and the state VS. the people of Hawaii.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:11:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trinette Furtado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since COVID, Hawai`i has seen an alarming rise in non-resident real estate investors both big and small, taking advantage of our housing market to escape their own areas or utilize `āina as a wealth-building industry.

Many of these non-resident owners do not use these second and third properties as residences but purely as investments and thus should pay higher taxes that could go into a fund to offset the impacts on our local communities and residents trying to secure permanent, affordable housing.

I urge you to please pass this bill.

Mahalo.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:13:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myra Lodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii born local of 62 years my heart breaks for our Keiki's trying to stay in Hawaii.

My 34 year old son with 4 children tried for two years to purchase a home on the Westside and was out bid by Military offering an outrageous amount.

As of four months ago, a local seller chose to sell thier home to a local family over a Military family who would sell it in three years. Thankfully my son is now a home owner, and we get to enjoy our grandchildren.

I am for this bill SB34 About Time as I have another son who would love to stay in Hawaii and live close to us, his parents.

Please let's keep Hawaiian grown in Hawaii as Ohana with no one left behind.

Thank you for hearing my story.

Sincerely Yours,

Myra Lodge

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:15:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maralei Kahawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ke aloha mai no kākou, I am writing to say that I support SB34. Gentrification and speculation is rampant in Hawai'i which is contributing to the detriment of my people and others whose families lived here for generations and have never known another way of life. I read a statistic that there are more Hawaiians living outside of Hawai'i than in it. People come from all over the world to experience the spiritual power of Hawai'i. But it won't be Hawai'i anymore without Hawaiians. This bill isn't perfect but it's a building block in the foundation of giving Hawai'i people a chance to stay here, at home, where we belong.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:40:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james pirtle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:42:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalae	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kala'e and have worked in Hawaii Realestate for 6 years. I care deeply about land conservation and cultural preservation.

If this bill were passed, it would greatly benefit locals who are in the market property of their own. Hawaii is our land, but due to so many families still renting, relocation cannot be avoided. The need to relocate can cause significant inconvenience financially.

Hawaii will not be Hawaii without its people. If residents are constantly needing to move off island to acquire a home and start building financial security, then it's only a matter of time before there won't be any Hawaiians and locals left.

I want to thank the committee for hearing this bill and my testimony today.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kalae Lopes

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:43:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kahawai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a 38-year-old resident of this community, I have observed the detrimental impact of outside investors buying up all the available properties. The ability for local individuals to purchase a home or invest in real estate in their own neighborhoods has become nearly non-existent. This trend is driving up housing prices and making it unaffordable for those who live and work here. Not only does this make it challenging for families to establish roots and stability, but it also detracts from the sense of community that comes from a blend of local ownership. The influx of outside investors also frequently results in a lack of understanding and consideration for the local culture and needs. It is a disheartening situation that must be addressed to preserve the livelihoods and well-being of the individuals who call this place home.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:49:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marty Martins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If non-residents who have access to higher paying jobs are allowed to come to Hawai'i and buy up residences - usually their 2nd residence! - with their higher incomes at the expense of island residents who are trying to buy just ONE home, then I believe those non-residents should pay much higher property taxes.

Please pass this legislation!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:57:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
theodore davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that SB34 passing is a step in the right direction for a better Hawaii. We need a Hawaii where local residents and families can afford to live here. Cause without Hawaiians there is no Hawaii. Mahalo and aloha.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:59:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ikaika won	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawaii cannot afford to buy a home in the place they grew up. Shame on the leaders that have allowed this to happen.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:07:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawailehua Kahalehau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill in hopes that locals, more specifically native Hawaiians like myself, have more of an opportunity to buy a home here in Hawai'i. For my kids and future generations to do the same.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:08:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Avicolli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this bill in favor of Hawai'i's local residents and future generations of Hawai'i home owners in our native land. As a Native Hawaiian and not yet home owner, it is extremely important to us to preserve the rights of the people to be able to live in this special place we are from, instead of foreigners, who further perpetuate our people's displacement. It is only pono to create appropriate boundaries that confirms the foundation of protecting Hawai'i and it's people as a priority, and this issue has gone too far for too long. Mahalo for your time and consideration in hearing and honoring this significant bill for Hawai'i.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:16:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucienne de Naie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this much needed revenue stream.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 11:27:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of hawaii have been priced out of their own homes for many years but most recently, the dramatic increase of native hawaiians leaving the islands speaks volumes. We should be providing resources for Native Hawaiians and Kama'aina and we should be allowing them the option to purchase land/homes before any non-resident. This is our home. If non-residents want to invest into land here, they should pay a much more higher cost, and those taxes should go back to providing resources for our kama'aina.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:00:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Gonzales	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Esther Gonzales, support Bill SB34 that allows the taxation of non residents to be taxed to the full extent in hopes to keep the cost of living for the people of Hawaii at bay. Foreign investors are causing the locals who actually live here have a hard time affording a decent home now days! Please HELP US Locals!!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:12:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karese Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly support SB34

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:13:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaioluhia Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 34 and the increase in tax on sales for non-resident

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 12:53:20 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LEHUALANI NAKASONE	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I make \$150k a year yet cannot live a sustainable life paying a mortgage and maintenance fees for a half a million dollar small condo in makiki. For the sake of our Keiki and for our own future, I hope this bill passes. I would hate to be forced to move off my island, our island, to have a life that's manageable just because all these foreigners have taken over our land. Please help our people stay on our island.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:04:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Est	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The land that was taken continues to be taken today. This needs to stop. Why should our communities, keiki, and Kupuna suffer to survive on their own land while we pay investors so WE can live HERE in our homelands? Give the islands back to us. We will always have tourism, but we are running out of places to call our "home."

I fully support this bill to increase taxes on non-resident real estate investors. If they want somewhere to vacation, that's why we have hotels. We need to stop allowing non-resident mainlanders from capitalizing on our local communities! This is a monumental step forward towards getting back our lands.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:09:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nanea Lo. I'm born and raised in the Hawaiian Kingdom a Kanaka Maoli.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of SB34

SB34 is a step towards preventing non residents from buying homes in Hawai'i.

PEOPLE OVER PROFITS.

Pass SB34.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 3:31:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Wuscher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support SB 34. This bill will benefit our local community by allowing us the opportunity to own a home which in many instances been purchased for profit by nonresidents.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:16:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammi Gumban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this Bill, strongly and believe that our local families who are struggling to purchase affordable housing- and a Native Hawaiian whose born and raised here on the islands- deserves equivalent and fair access to home we can afford.

STOP allowing these foreigners or non-residents take away our 'Aina and stop allowing them weep benefits at the cost of our Local People!! 🙄

Mahalo

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:28:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and good morning

i strongly support this bill SB34 and its intent to prioritize local people and their efforts to remain and live in Hawaii. This bill is a great start in having a mechanism that deters the trend of outside investors buying up property driving up land values and selling to make a profit while displacing local residents even further this measure should be supported by all law makers and should be considered unanimously.

the intent of this law and the is plain and simple. It's good for the people of hawaii

i thank you for your consideration and support of this bill. We look forward to this being one of the wins during this session.

should there be some issue with the bill I also ask that you spend the time fix any issue with the consideration of its intent and in line with the authors direction.

Its a good one and it's about time !

Mahalo

Ben Rowe

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:44:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melia Leslie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Melia Leslie, I've lived in Hawaii all my life. I strongly support this bil SB34. The amount of foreign investors and mainland transplants looking to buy investment property here in Hawaii is obscene. I worked as a Realtor for a few years and I cannot begin to tell you how many phone calls I received from people looking to buy investment property here that were from Canada and elsewhere. This is driving up the market so our locals cannot afford to buy and it's destroying the fabric of our communities. Please let this bill be heard and passed. I urge you. Your constituents of Hawaii urge you. Thank you.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:46:44 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauluwehiokekai Nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pass this bill!

Just recently the house across my residence sold their home. The former owners bought the property for \$900,000 and sold it for a whopping **\$1.5 million!** A \$600,000 profit! And the worst part is that they sold it to out of state residents who still hasn't removed their Washington State license plates from their vehicles.

PASS THIS BILL!

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 6:56:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelyn Reyno Yeomans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of letting this bill SB34 go forward. Lets get this bill forward for more discussion and input.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:44:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Silva	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It'll always be keep Hawaiian lands in Hawaiian hands. We can't afford to live here, being kicked out of their homes, our parents homes, our kūpunas homes and beyond is truly heart breaking. We need to PUT THE MONEY TO THE SIDE, and do what's right by our people and stop giving up our land for more money to these tourists already, to non-residents! These are one of the steps that we can take to make it harder for non-residents to get homes here. We're hoping more than anything that this bill passes. For the sake of our families, our ancestors and every Hawaiian that's been fighting these problems for generations. We need to take the steps to making a difference in all of these issues here but this is a start. Please. God bless and a BIG MAHALO to Senator Brenton Awa always for fighting for our Hawaiian people, for bringing this to light! We need more people like him! Too many people sweeping us under the rug.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 7:55:38 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Irvine-Pascua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, I believe it will open up opportunities for Hawaii residents to own property.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:00:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanalu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB34, would prefer 10 years.

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:21:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
d. lipman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for letting me speak my mind.

This is regarding SB Bill 34, I don't quite understand the entire bill, but something must be done to make residents able to afford to live where they work and contribute to the local society.

I live on a small street in East Oahu. I do live on the beach and before you pigeonhole me into "you're rich or entitled" hole please listen to my story. My tight knit community has been up until recently, made up of local folks. We were born here, moved here, raised or are raising families here. What I want to stress to you is that we are "local". We live here, work here, and contribute everyday to Hawaii. We are a neighborhood of civil servant retirees, small business owners, teachers, doctors, etc. contributing daily to our island, it's peoples, and it's local flavor. Our neighborhood acutually has people who grew up on this very special street.

Recently, multiple homes (approx 7%) have been purchased for a lot of money and are being rented out for a lot of money. This raises OUR property tax, but we don't have the luxury of renting our homes, because we live here and have jobs, families and roots. (A recent purchase of a nearby home for \$6,060,000 in 2022 is now renting on Air BNB for \$30,840 and owned by an LLC).

I know Hawaii is a beautiful unique place with a deep cultural history. I love Hawaii, this is my home. If we keep allowing non-residents keep buying our homes and lands, where will the residents of Hawaii live? Where will the local flavor of Hawaii live? Where will the stewards of Hawaii live?

Sincerely,

D. Lipman

Distinguished members of the Hawaii Congress ALOHA!

My name is Yvonne Sudlow and I am honored to share my written testimony in favor of this Bill. I have been a Hawaii State resident almost all my life, and I believe I have a unique perspective on the topic of this bill, as I am also a Native Hawaiian and a Military spouse. My husband joined the military because we knew it was one of the only ways our family could afford a home here in Hawaii. We used the VA loan benefit in 2017 when we were stationed back home in Hawaii. Our family quickly outgrew the humble home we bought in Wahiawa and sold in 2021 at the peak of the Pandemic. Now we are back in the market and to see the effects of the market as a buyer is overwhelming and sad. The money we made on the sale of our home in 2021 wouldn't even put a dent in the 20% down payment on a home in today's market that will fit the needs of our family. With the home average of about a million dollars the average person would need to have at least \$200,000 saved up for a down payment for a home here in Hawaii. The only people with pockets as deep as that are either Non-residents or Military personnel with VA loan access.

Hawaii's housing market has become increasingly worse as we have people who are buying up homes and using them as a vacation home or Air Bnb, or they are stationed here with no intention of staying but every intention of making money on the sale of their home when they leave (which drives up the market!). If the Pandemic taught us anything it's that Hawaii needs this bill. As a military spouse I have seen too many times Service members who have benefitted greatly off the sale of their homes here in Hawaii. Most of them have made enough money on the sale to buy their next home without taking out another loan. The military also have access to exclusive housing on base all over the island as a previous resident in one of those housing communities I can say that homes there also run vacant quite often.

As a Native Hawaiian I struggle with this, because for those of us who qualify. The current housing programs we have in place for Native Hawaiians don't allow us to benefit off the homes in the capacity that military members do utilizing their programs. We need to do better by our people and for our people, and I believe its time Hawaii started to put Hawaii first.

The solution I propose in regard to this is. Non-residents cannot buy property here in Hawaii for 3 years until which time they can gain residency so long as they have consistently physically resided on the islands for those 3 years. Three years because most military contracts are up by then and if they truly want to continue to live here, they will have the opportunity.

I think the governors bill of not allowing air bnbs to rent less than a month is on the right track, however I believe a resident who is still residing on the same property should be allowed to bnb that property. The same rules should then apply to them that any non-resident military or not shouldn't be allowed to purchase property unless they have been physically living in Hawaii for at least 3 years. Until such time they can then apply for residency. I believe it's a good solution because it doesn't really exclude everyone from being able to purchase, and it also provides them the opportunity to buy in the future if they wish. On the plus side of this is more residents equals more taxes for the state.

The other suggestion falls in line with what this bill is already trying to do which is allowing non-residents to buy, but applying a much higher non-resident property tax on their properties. I believe Hawaii has one of the lowest property taxes in the US. I think applying a

non-resident tax on non-resident buyers will not only dissuade non-residents from purchasing and then selling for a profit, but will also encourage those who are non-residents to become residents in order to avoid the property tax, but also make them subject to our state income tax. I appreciate the time each of you take to read my testimony and I hope this bill passes the time is NOW Hawaii!

Mahalo,

Yvonne Sudlow

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:24:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawaii. My family, for multiple generations, has not been able to afford a home here. As nonresidents continue to buy our limited real estate, they actively take away opportunities for native and local people to thrive in their home and communities. Non residents are not community members. They do not care about Hawaii like those of us that live here and depend on these systems for survival. We need to stop allowing nonresidents to buy homes and increase home prices so they can have a vacation or second home.

I support this bill

SB-34

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 8:27:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/7/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Consuelo Apolo-Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is consuelo apolo-gonsalves I support this bill cause our people needs homes and if we can't take care our people then we shouldn't accommodate others to buy here and not live here full time it's not fair to the people who lives here I'm glad a bill is put forward for this cause lord knows we have enough homelessness here please pass this bill for the importance of our people on the future... and besides if over here becomes only for the rich who's gonna work from the rich think about that cause eventually we working people are not gonna be able to afford...please pass bill SB34 MAHALO