

MINUTES

of the

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

MAY 14, 2007

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON MONDAY, MAY 14, 2007, AT 9:07 A.M., WITH CHAIR G. RIKI HOKAMA PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON A PROPOSED RESOLUTION ENTITLED:

"ADOPTING THE FUEL TAX RATES
FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI,
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007"

CHAIR HOKAMA: The Council of the County of Maui 14 May 2007 shall come to order. Members, we are here today for a public hearing on the fuel tax rates proposed for the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget.

Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS MICHELLE ANDERSON, GLADYS C. BAISA, JO ANNE JOHNSON, MICHAEL J. MOLINA, JOSEPH PONTANILLA, VICE-CHAIR DENNIS A. MATEO, AND CHAIR G. RIKI HOKAMA.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBERS WILLIAM J. MEDEIROS AND MICHAEL P. VICTORINO.

There were five members of the public in attendance.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY CLERK ROY T. HIRAGA: Mr. Chairman, seven Members are present, you, there is a, a quorum of the Council available to conduct business.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, has this public hearing been duly noticed?

COUNTY CLERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the Notices of Public Hearing were published in the May 6, 9, and 13, issues of *The Maui News* respectively.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Clerk do we have anyone requesting to provide testimony to the Council on the fuel tax rates for the Fiscal Year 2008 which starts on July 1, 2007.

COUNTY CLERK: No we, we do not, Mr. Chairman, and no written testimony has been received.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, the Chair duly recognizes the comments from the Clerk.

Members, for your information the proposed tax rate per gallon in the following categories are gasoline and diesel fuel .16, excuse me, sixteen cents is the easier way to say it per gallon is the proposal. On biodiesel we are continuing the efforts of the County at having no tax rate for biodiesel. For ethanol we are looking at 3.8 cents per gallon. For methanol we are looking at 2.9 cents per gallon. And for liquefied petroleum gas, we are looking at 4.3 cents per gallon.

Are there any questions from the Members of the Council? Are there any comments from Mr. Pablo, Budget Director?

BUDGET DIRECTOR FREDERICK PABLO: No comment, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. There being no testimony.

Ms. Baisa.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Mr. Chair. I am sorry for the lateness of bringing this up, but having just stopped at the gas pump this morning and having another of those very difficult situations to observe, you know, a, a local person stops by driving a small little old sedan, man jumps out obviously on his way to work and says to the attendant, I need ten bucks. And looking at my own receipt where I bought ten, ten gallons, which cost me \$38.53 it's kind of a heartbreaking situation what's happening with gas prices. And I know we've balanced the budget and nobody wants to hear this but, when and is it possible that we could further reduce our gas taxes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ah, as a body, yes we could. You would need to raise taxes somewhere else to offset the loss in the Highway Fund for Highway Fund projects. So, it depends who you want to pay?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: I'm quite aware of that and that's why I, you know, was hesitant to bring it up. But I just wondered if anyone else also had these kinds of thoughts.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, that would not be in this public hearing, that discussion. That would be held during first reading of the Fiscal Year 2008 Budget consideration.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

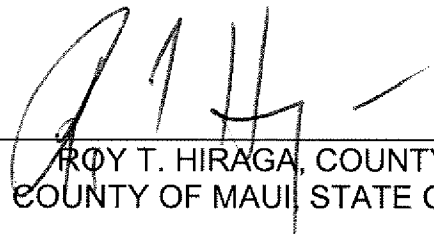
Ms. Anderson.

COUNCILMEMBER ANDERSON: No thank you, Chair, I was just going towards what you just said.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, thank you. There being no requests before Council for public testimony on today's public hearing of 14 May 2007, on the fuel tax rates proposed for the County of Maui for the Fiscal Year 2008, this public hearing is hereby adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of May 14, 2007, was adjourned by the Chair at 9:12 a.m.



ROY T. HIRAGA, COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII