

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

January 31, 2012

Council Chamber, 8th Floor

CONVENE: 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla, Chair
Councilmember Gladys C. Baisa, Member
Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member
Councilmember Elle Cochran, Member
Councilmember Donald G. Couch, Jr., Member
Councilmember Danny A. Mateo, Member
Councilmember Michael P. Victorino, Member
Councilmember Mike White, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Scott Kaneshina, Legislative Analyst
Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

Michele Yoshimura, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Joseph Pontanilla
Troy Hashimoto, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Mike White
Arthur Suyama, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Danny A. Mateo
Ken Fukuoka, Director, Office of Council Services

ADMIN.: Scott K. Teruya, Administrator, Real Property Tax Division, Department of Finance
Marcy Martin, County Real Property Technical Officer, Real Property Tax
Division, Department of Finance
Grant Nakama, Real Property Appraiser Supervisor, Real Property Tax Division,
Department of Finance
Scott K. Hanano, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (substituting for Adrienne N. Heely)

Seated in the gallery:

Jeremiah L. Savage, Deputy Director, Department of Finance

OTHERS: William Jacintho, President, Maui Cattlemen's Association
David DeLeon, Realtors Association
Bryan Sarasin
John V. Duey
Amber Ngo-Savage
Four (4) additional unidentified attendees

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PRESS: *Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR PONTANILLA: ...*(gavel)*... The Budget and Finance Committee meeting for January 31st, 2012, is now in session. And the time is 6:06.

. . . Good evening, everyone, and thank you for coming here this evening to provide your public testimony. At this time, the Chair would like to recognize the Committee members that are here this evening. We do have Member Carroll, Member Baisa, Member Cochran--

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: Aloha.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Member Couch, Member Victorino--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Evening, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Good evening. Member White; and our Chairman, Chairman Mateo. Excused at this time is Member Hokama. From the Administration, we do have Deputy Corporation Counsel Scott Hanano--

MR. HANANO: Good evening.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: And in the back, in the . . .the lobby area, we do have people from the Real Property Tax office. We do have Scott Teruya, who is the Real Property Tax Administrator; Marcy Martin; as well as Grant Nakama. They can provide you with some information in regards how this bill will affect your real property tax. So if you have any questions regarding your property tax, I would suggest that you see the Real Property Tax people out in the lobby.

. . . This evening, the Committee is accepting public testimony on BF-70, disparity of real property assessment for agricultural versus non-agricultural lands. The Committee is in receipt of a proposed bill, a bill for an ordinance amending Chapter 3.48, Maui County Code, relating to the tax assessment of homesites on parcels receiving agricultural use assessments.

ITEM BF-70: DISPARITY OF REAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS FOR AGRICULTURAL VERSUS NON-AGRICULTURAL LANDS (CC 11-227)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Before we get started, I'd like to cover a few ground rules. If you do have a cell phone, if you can all turn it off or put it on the silent mode at this time. . .the Committee would appreciate that. Chair will allow you three minutes to provide public testimony. And Chair will allow you one minute to conclude. When your name is called, please come forward. . .please state your name for the record and the organization that you represent. Be sure to speak into the mic. And once you're done, if you could stay a few moments, Members may have questions for you.

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. . . So at this time, the Chair would like to call the first person to sign up for public testimony this evening--William Jacintho.

NOTE: Pause while Mr. Jacintho approached the podium.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. JACINTHO: . . . Good evening, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Budget and Finance Committee. My name is William Jacintho. I'm the President of the Maui Cattlemen's Association. The Maui Cattlemen's Association is a non-profit organization representing small and large livestock producers in Maui County. This includes Molokai and Lanai. The Maui Cattlemen's Association thanks you for the work the TIG Committee have done. We also thank you for involving farmers and ranchers in several preliminary discussions. However, community meetings with Budget and Finance only provided opportunity to testify, and not provide time for public education. When we left the last TIG meeting, it was agreed that the report was a great start, but needed to be reviewed by the ag community and further worked. . .worked on before we rush this law and hurt the people we are supposed to be protecting. Since then, especially since *Maui News* articles were published, we've gotten lots and lots of concerns from true ranchers, families, and lessees who have employee housing. Agriculture employee homesites are a true function of the operation. Much of the day-to-day activities are conducted within these resident locations--from drying onions to running the business. We do not believe the farm homesite should be taxed as residential rate. . .equal to property owners that use their home specifically for a residence. These are good law, there are good laws on the books. Currently, Ag zoned property owners pay an Ag tax rate. If a person farms and would like to dedicate their ag zoned property to agriculture activity, they can do so through the dedication process and receive a tax break. This gives landowners. . .ag landowners an incentive to dedicate land to ag production. Homes on all lands are charged a tax based upon the value of the home, minus a homeowner's [*sic*] exemption. If all homes are charged in that way, then there is fairness in the law. If residential properties receive more County-provided services and pay more tax for that, then there is fairness in that as well. There is a need in understanding that agriculture families and businesses have a very low bottom line. We want to represent our people as they need to be represented, and not taxed off their ag business and land. We are willing to continue dialog with the TIG Committee, if it reconvenes, as further discussion would be healthy for decision-making. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on the proposed BF-70 bill.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, Mr. Jacintho. Members, any questions for the testifier?
Member Baisa?

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Yes, thank you very much, Chair. And thank you, William, for being here tonight. There's a couple of things in your testimony I wanted to ask, ask you a little bit more about. You mentioned that you would like to continue dialog with the TIG Committee if it reconvenes.

MR. JACINTHO: Uh-huh.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Do you think that that's what, is that a suggestion, is that something you'd like to see? And why?

MR. JACINTHO: It would be a suggestion. . .based on what the proposed bill is. Apparently the people who I have to represent are not comfortable with it and would not like to see it passed as is. So if so, we are still willing to talk more if they want to.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So it kind, kinda ties in to the. . .at the very beginning of your testimony--

MR. JACINTHO: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: --where you said community meet, community meetings with Budget and Finance only provided opportunity to testify and not provided time for public education.

MR. JACINTHO: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So you kind of feel like even though we had the meetings, that the people didn't understand what they were testifying on, a lot of them.

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah, a lot of. . .from what I understand, a lot of the, some of the locations were poorly attended and possibly because of that. . .they don't understand and. . .I know people were looking for the opportunity to learn about the bill. Mike White did a lot of that for you know certain. . .organizations. But when people came to, to the meetings like this, it was strictly for testimony and there was no, like, explaining the bill. . .from what I gather.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: So what I'm hearing is you would have liked us to have a little presentation on the bill before.

MR. JACINTHO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay.

MR. JACINTHO: For the public.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Okay.

MR. JACINTHO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: Thank you very much.

MR. JACINTHO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for the testifier?

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. . . And again, ladies and gentlemen, the Budget and Finance Committee will take up this particular subject on February the 14th. We will have a presentation. Hopefully those of you that are interested do come to the meeting on February 14th. And again, I, I. . . I recommend that if you're affected or *may* be affected, that you see our Real Property Tax Administrator in the back, or the Real Property Tax Division people. They can give you a fairly good idea what your tax *may* be. . . as far as this particular bill that is being proposed. So, again, Mr. Jacintho, thank you for your testimony.

MR. JACINTHO: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Next testifier is David DeLeon.

NOTE: Pause while Mr. DeLeon approached the podium.

MR. DeLEON: . . . Good evening and aloha. Thank you for your efforts to. . . outreach and try to get communication on this. I am David DeLeon, representing Maui's 1,300 licensed, professional realtors. Thank you for this opportunity to speak. The Realtors Association of Maui would like to make the following three points about the proposed legislation. Our Association questions how, under the proposed legislation, the tax department plans. . . to separate components of a single property. The value of a property is set when it sells. When that happens, the buyer does not pay one price for the "farm" property and another for the house lot. The property is sold as a whole, and the value set is based on the whole. Once you start separating, once you start setting separate values for portions of the same property, you start moving away from that original market-based value. When the Council assigned a tax system for vacation rentals, we were told that it was not possible to separate the different uses of the same property. In this case, apparently, you believe it *is* possible. We wonder how you are gonna go about that and arrive at a fair market-based value. Second point, RAM would humbly suggest that the Council exercise extreme caution in this endeavor. While we appreciate that the ultimate goal of this effort is to create a fairer tax system, we believe that a speedy pursuit of this proposal could lead to unintended consequences--hurting those who the Council would least wish to harm, true farmers who are just trying to get by. For instance, what happens when the home also serves as the farm's baseyard and field office? What happens when grandma quits farming? Questions such as these speak to the complexity of the issue. Instead of rushing to pass an ordinance, we would suggest that the Council initiate a management audit of. . . on how we currently tax agricultural lands in Maui County. Let's get detailed answers to how we do it now and why there are apparently so many inequities and different practices so that we can thoroughly understand the process before we try to fix it.

. . . Three, RAM believes that one of the possible actions the Council can take to help resolve this issue is to actively move non-farm, small-lot Agricultural zoned properties to Rural zoning. As many as 1,000 small-lot. . . properties were created via subdivision in the last 30 years in the Agricultural District in Maui County. Very few of these are now being operated as true farms, and some are on lands that are not truly farmable. Redesignating them Rural--

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MR. KANESHINA: Three minutes.

MR. DeLEON: --to match their actual use would go a long way towards correcting the confusion we now have over what is a true farm property. Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any questions for Mr. DeLeon at this time?

. . . Seeing none, thank you, again--

MR. DeLEON: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: --Mr. DeLeon.

. . . The next testifier is Brian Sarasin.

NOTE: Pause while Mr. Sarasin approached the podium.

MR. SARASIN: Good evening, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Council. What I'm testifying tonight on is everything is going after the farmer's property. Now farming as we know, has a very, very. . .small margin. My concern is instead of the Council going after the bona fide farmers. . .the gentlemen estates is really the focus that this Council needs to really pursue. If you were to pursue the gentlemen estates, leave the farmers alone--they're having a heck of a time right now even. . .even. . .survive. If you were to have a task force or. . .set up an agency or hire outside to go out and do audits of the gentlemen estates, go ahead and make the recommendations, have the tax department, you know, set the ground rules. . .you guys would be able to come up with probably 27 to 40 million dollars in a very short order of time and leave the farmers alone. The farmers, like I said, are having a hard time. And to me the gentlemen estates, the gentlemen estates, I see. . .really . . .

. . . so undertaxed, it's not even funny. Just for. . .a blatant statement. I know I've brought this up before, but I, I just hate you know the County and the State's saying, okay, we're encouraging agriculture. And yet on the same token right now what's happening is you're going after agriculture. To me, that, that, I'm sorry but there's. . .either I'm missing something or something is very sadly wrong. And my suggestion would be--even if you have to hire an outside company on a commission basis, and, and put some meat into enforcing what's on the books today, then the farmers would be able to do what they're doing today--be left alone, not putting a higher burden on their taxes. . .so that, that's gonna put a lot of 'em out of business. I thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any question for Mr. Sarasin at this time?

. . . Member Couch?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Sarasin, for being here. Question, you said "pursue gentlemen's estates". That's kind of what this bill is. . .is intending to do. And

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unfortunately we have an issue that it may grab up some of the . . . the farmers as well. Actually, all of the farmers. Um. . . can you. . . kind of tell me how we can codify. . . what determines a "gentlemen's estate" versus a bona fide farm? Because there's all different kinds of suggestions and definitions and still nothing that. . . that will help catch. . . the ones we wanna catch and, and release the ones we--

MR. SARASIN: Uh--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --we don't wanna catch.

MR. SARASIN: You know, it, the Council's gonna have to come up with some kind of a definition of Ag. And, for me, if you're coming into a gentlemen's estate, you see a million dollar house, two million dollar house, whatever it is. Anything over half-a-million dollars, in my opinion. . . and they have four or five or a dozen. . . apple trees, orange trees, they've got three or four horses running around, maybe they're breeding a dog or two. . . maybe they got a small garden. That's not a farm. That's just using the system to get the lower tax rate. Now until you folks come together with, with farmers and everybody concerned where you can come into a, a definition. . . it doesn't have to be iron-clad, but it has to have some general ground rules on it. 'Cause I, I don't wanna see the, the farmer impacted. What I wanna see is--and, and I see what you guys are trying to do, but the unintended. . . consequences is the farmers are gonna be hit hard. And that's what I, I don't wanna see happen. So the Council really needs to come up with a set of perimeters [*sic*] that says, okay, to be a farm, you need to do this. Exactly what that is? I really don't know because I know the Council and I know the. . . Cattlemen's Association, you know, and other organizations have tried to do a definition and it's extremely hard. But if you were to take a group of farmers and have them sit on a commission or, or. . . and have them *evaluate* each one case-by-case, they're the ones that are, they're the ones that are farming. They're the ones that are ranching. They know, they know a farm when they see one. They know of. . . a shibai when they see one, too. And also with the tax department. You know, everybody has to work in unison to make this work. And then, of course, you'd have to have an appeals process, too, because if you, if somebody gets inadvertently hit with this, then they would need to have a process where they could come and, and you know basically make their case.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay, thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for Mr. Sarasin?

. . . Seeing none, thank you, again, Brian.

MR. SARASIN: Thank you very much.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: The last person to sign up for public testimony this evening is John Duey. And if there's anyone that wanna provide public testimony this evening, if you can see the Secretary out in the lobby?

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NOTE: Pause while Mr. Duey approached the podium.

MR. DUEY: . . . Good evening, Chair Pontanilla, Members. I know you look at me at water, but I'm a true farmer also. We farm in Ukumehame, the ag subdivision. We raise goats, none, and we have a field stock nursery. If we were to build a house there and be taxed at regular Residential rate, the farmer would probably go back to USDA. Member Couch stole part of my thunder. I was thinking about this today when my wife told me about the meeting tonight. My answer to your question is, Don, is to have a figure--200,000, 300,000, whatever it is for a house on a farm that's exempt. Period. Anything over whatever the figure is that you come up with--half-a-million like Brian had mentioned, that is not a farm. A farmer is not gonna build a million dollar house on his farm. He can't afford it. You ask anybody, ask a rancher, a guy who grows carnations, the guy who raises goats--he can't have, build a million dollar house on his farm and pay the note on the house and the farm. There's no way. But if you had a, a house, a cottage, or a farm dwelling that doesn't cost you an arm and a leg, you set that as your figure and you say anything below that you're not going be taxed for it. . .even your, an Ag rate. We have a, we are an ag. . .we're in Ag zone. We have a farm plan, we're tasked, taxed an Ag rate. But if we build a house and went to residential rates, look out. So my, my answer to you, Don, is to, and the Committee is to set some kind of figure. I don't know what the figure is, what. . .what the normal residential house, yeah, I know it's expensive, but. . .if you're including land with that, maybe just have a figure of, say, 200,000, 300,000, anything *above* that be taxed at Residential rate. That's, I wasn't planning on testifying until I read the bill. So. . .haven't been there too often this year, lately, but anyway that's all I have to say. And thanks for listen. . .listening to me.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, John. We always love you being here.

ALL: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Members, any questions for Mr. Duey? Mr. Couch?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you, Mr. Duey, for. . .coming and testifying again.

MR. DUEY: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Now you said you. . .you don't live on the . . .

MR. DUEY: That's right. We don't live on our farm--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: . . . farm that you farm.

MR. DUEY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Now?

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MR. DUEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay. So you have, you have a house that you pay Residential rate--

MR. DUEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --right now. So...you're saying that, that it's okay for you to pay Residential rate on your house and you farm somewhere else.

MR. DUEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: But if you were to move on the farm and--

MR. DUEY: ...*(inaudible)*...

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --then get Ag rate and pay a lot less, that's...that's okay?

MR. DUEY: No. Well, to pay *Ag* rate, yes. If we had--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Right. Because you're gonna pay a whole lot less than you pay now--

MR. DUEY: Yeah--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --if you move to the farm.

MR. DUEY: ... Run that by me again.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: If you, if you, if you have...you're paying Ag, uh, Residential rate at your house now.

MR. DUEY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Then you come and move to the *farm*--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Currently, the way the tax systems is set up, you would pay a whole lot *less*--

MR. DUEY: Right. But it, but--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay?

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MR. DUEY: Go ahead, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: But why, how is that fair to the guy who lives off. . .off of the farm and still farms a piece of land, as opposed to the guy who *lives* on the land and farms that piece of land?

. . . There's two different, doing the same process on the same amount of land--

MR. DUEY: I don't--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --40 acres, right--

MR. DUEY: You got me.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: I'm just, I'm just asking--

MR. DUEY: Yeah . . .

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --how. . .how that can be *fair*. . .how do we make it fair?

MR. DUEY: I . . .I live in a Residential house--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Correct.

MR. DUEY: --we pay a Residential tax.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Right.

MR. DUEY: But if we built a residence on the *farm*--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Uh-huh.

MR. DUEY: --within this new bill we'd have to pay a residence tax on that new structure, right?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: The same tax you would be paying--

MR. DUEY: Yeah. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --at, that you're paying *now*.

. . . So I don't see what the difference--

MR. DUEY: No, under the, the way I understand this bill, we build a house on our *farm*--

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COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Uh-huh.

MR. DUEY: --we'd pay a residential tax on that new building, new structure.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Correct.

MR. DUEY: Right?

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Right.

MR. DUEY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Not any more than what you're paying *now*. I guess this is where I don't. . .see. . .it's kinda unfair for somebody who has to farm over here--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --but live over here, versus the guy who lives on the farm. The guy who lives on the farm pays a *whole* lot *less*. . .in taxes--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: --for a lot more land than the guy who. . .who farms over here but lives over here.

MR. DUEY: Well, all I'm saying. . .I. . .I don't quite understand you. All I'm saying, that if we had to build, if we build a house on the farm and paid the residential tax--

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Uh-huh.

MR. DUEY: --I don't know how we'd be able to pay the tax because we're already, we're. . .we're paying a big amount of tax on the farm *before* we got the Ag rate. . .which is ridiculous. If we had to build a. . .build a house and build the. . .pay the tax on top of that, I don't know how we'd be able to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay.

MR. DUEY: You can't from the farm income--I'll put it that way.

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Okay.

MR. DUEY: That's why my wife works . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER BAISA: . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COUCH: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for Mr. Duey?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Mr. Victorino?

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Yeah, thank you, John.

MR. DUEY: Good evening.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: It's, it's so. . .different have you not talking about water. You know . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DUEY: Hard. Hard. It's hard . . .*(laughter)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Anyhow, in relation to what Don was asking you. . .what you're trying to say is if you today built a house on your property and that house was taxed as Residential, right, the value, the amount of money you're paying for your taxes would go up substantially because now you have a home on there--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --you're paying for that.

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Right? Right now you have that land based on all ag assessment.

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh, right.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Okay. And then you have your home, which is basically you're homeowner--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --right, and you live there. And this assessed--and I think this is where we really having this, this real challenges because right now. . .it's the assessed *value*. . .*not* the tax *rate*.

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MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So you get, like say your land is. . .ten acres and it may be taxed at 15,000 dollars an acre or something like that. I, I, I'm just using a number right off the top of my head. Right?

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: All of a sudden you put a house there, so you got a house that's 300,000--

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --even if you get a 200,000 tax break you know for the homeowners, you still pay a 100,000 on that portion of your land for *Residential* rate, now, and the other one is 15,000. So you pay 100,000 plus whatever the land might be, maybe another 100,000. Right?

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: So that's what you're referring to--that having it is really the killer right now because if you don't have it you're paying strictly ag . . .

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: . . . assessed value.

MR. DUEY: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And *that's* what you're trying to bring up.

MR. DUEY: And I, and the other thing is I. . .Don asked earlier and Brian alluded to that the amount of. . .the value of the house, to me, means a lot, has a lot to do with this, this whole bill. So if you have a, if you build a shack, a 100,000 house, you should be, on your farm, you shouldn't be taxed the Residential rate. 'Cause now if you build a million dollar house on your farm. . .that's a different story. That may not be a farm.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: And, and I thinks that's a, that's an idea that *may* be something to really look into a little more--is on what you *building*. I mean, I agree with you--

MR. DUEY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --true farmers, you go to their house, they don't have mansions.

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MR. DUEY: Uh-uh.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: But gentlemen estates, yeah, you can *see* the tremendous difference--

MR. DUEY: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: --in what they're building.

MR. DUEY: Thank you. I just saw that today, actually. I didn't know whether this had been brought up before at the other meetings or not, and I understood they haven't, you haven't had good participation at the other meetings, but anyway I thought, I . . .to me, that was one way to overcome this . . .problem.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: That's something maybe we can look at, you know. Thank you. And, John, you always come up with good ideas. That's why I appreciate you coming.

MR. DUEY: Thank you.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you. Members, any more questions for Mr. Duey at this time?

NOTE: Silence.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . None?

MR. DUEY: Mahalo.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you, again, John. John was the last person to sign up for public testimony. Chair is gonna give one more chance for anyone that wanna provide public testimony that haven't signed up.

NOTE: Silence.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: . . . Seeing none coming forward. . .Members, if there's no objection, the Chair would like to close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER COCHRAN: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: No objections, Chair.

CHAIR PONTANILLA: Thank you.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 31, 2012 (Wailuku-Waihee-Waikapu and Kahului)

CHAIR PONTANILLA: So with that, again. . .for the viewing public. . .people that are in this Chambers, February 14th we'll take up this particular bill again. And at that time, we'll have a presentation and debate on. . .on moving or not moving forward this proposed ordinance. So with that, thank you very much. The meeting of the Budget and Finance Committee for January 31st is now adjourned. . .(*gavel*). . .

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: GRH)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 6:32 p.m.

APPROVED:


JOSEPH PONTANILLA, Chair
Budget and Finance Committee

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Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto