

# MINUTES

of the

## PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

MAY 15, 2015

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, MAY 15, 2015, AT 10:03 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KALANA O MAUI BUILDING, WAILUKU, HAWAII WITH CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY PURSUANT TO SECTION 249-13, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES, AND SECTION 3.24.030, MAUI COUNTY CODE, REGARDING THE MOTOR VEHICLE WEIGHT TAX RATES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2016

CHAIR WHITE: Good morning. This meeting of the County Council of Maui shall come to order. Sounds like mics, there we go.

The purpose of this Public Hearing pursuant to Section 249-13, Hawaii Revised Statute, and Section 3.24.030, Maui County Code, is to receive public testimony regarding proposed Motor Vehicle Weight Tax rates for the Fiscal Year 2016 for the County of Maui.

Mr. Clerk, please call the roll.

## ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS GLADYS C. BAISA, ELEANORA COCHRAN, DONALD G. COUCH JR., S. STACY CRIVELLO, G. RIKI HOKAMA, MICHAEL P. VICTORINO, AND CHAIR MICHAEL B. WHITE.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBER ROBERT CARROLL AND VICE-CHAIR DONALD S. GUZMAN.

There were 6 members of the public in attendance.

COUNTY CLERK DENNIS A. MATEO: Mr. Chair, seven Members present, two excused; a quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Was this Public Hearing properly noticed?

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, Notice of this Public Hearing on the proposed Motor Vehicle Weight Tax rates for Fiscal Year 2016, was published in the Maui News on May 5, 2015, and May 10, 2015, respectively.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Please proceed.

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, proceeding with presentation of public testimony. We have established limited telephone interactive communication that enables individuals from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai to provide testimony from our District Offices.

Individuals who wish to offer testimony from Hana, Lanai, and Molokai, should now sign up with the District Office staff. Individuals who wish to offer testimony in the chamber, please sign up at the desk located on the eighth floor lobby just outside the chamber door. Testimony at all locations is limited to the item listed on today's agenda.

And pursuant to the Rules of the Council, each testifier is allowed to testify for up to three minutes with one minute to conclude if requested. And, when testifying, please state the name, your name and the name of any organization that you may represent.

Hana Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. DAWN LONO: Good morning. This is Dawn Lono at the Hana Office and there is no one waiting to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Lanai Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. DENISE FERNANDEZ: Good morning, Chair. This is Denise Fernandez on Lanai and there is no one waiting to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Molokai Office, please identify yourself and introduce your first testifier.

MS. ELLA ALCON: Good morning, Chair. This is Ella Alcon on Molokai and there is no one here waiting to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Mr. Chair, we have two individuals who have signed up to provide testimony in the chamber. The first person to provide testimony this morning is Valerie Sisneros, to be followed by Larry Quimby.

PRESENTATION OF WRITTEN OR ORAL TESTIMONY

MS. VALERIE SISNEROS:

Good morning. Now that I'm a seasoned testifier--

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: Can you go closer to the mic, please?

MS. SISNEROS: Sure. Is that about right.

CHAIR WHITE: There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER VICTORINO: There you go.

MS. SISNEROS: Okay, yes, now that I have experience. Just the same, it's the same thing, just more and more expense. This is really helpful for me. I've this is, like I said my first County Council meeting and it's, it's pretty cool, I like it.

But, anyway, this fuel tax, I mean the weight tax, I remember was it about three years ago? I went from paying, I think, \$150 to get my license plates to, I think it was \$298, and that all happened just like that and that was quite a burden. I only have one car. I have customers, I have, in fact, one of my best customers is a limousine company. She has nine, ten cars, and just the, the amount of burden that that puts on a business like that. It just keeps adding up.

Now, you guys know the, you know the specifics that when, when my rates went up like that. Maybe that wasn't County, maybe that was, I don't really know. To me, it's just a bigger check I have to write. I don't, I don't always know the specifics of it. So, I, I can just say I'm, I don't really think that the gentleman that talked about getting free rides out there, we are not getting a free ride. There's no way that we're getting a free ride.

But, I do think it's just, I think for me, it always goes to a bigger picture of why is it so expensive to do these road repairs. Why does that cost keep going up? Why is it that everything keeps going up? I mean, if we could just reign it all in, it would certainly help. And, yea, I don't envy your positions here trying to make these

decisions. But, I do want to say that it's, it's all, it's just too much. And, I, maybe that little bit that you're proposing isn't too much but in the big picture, just the extra burden as a taxpayer and a business person is not something I'm in support of. Thank you.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Ms. Sisneros.

Questions for the testifier, Members? Seeing none, thank you for being here.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: The next person to testify is Larry Quimby, to be followed by Wilfred Robello.

MR. LARRY QUIMBY:

Good morning.

CHAIR WHITE: Good morning.

MR. QUIMBY: Larry Quimby testifying again. And, thank you again for allowing me to speak, Chairman White and Members of the Council.

This is, I feel it's a duty. I am really shocked at the turnout for these testimonies. People complain, oh well they cost this, or, or the, these roads are that. People are complaining about the cost of the taxes. Then they're complaining about how, how horrible things are. And, they think that it's just money comes from, magically from nowhere.

Again, my testimony on this issue is pretty much the same as on the gas tax. When, where is that straw that's going to break the camel's back? We have the weight tax, we have gas taxes, we have our general excise tax that we pay. What, how much can the people afford?

We're going to, each time you throw a little bit more on there, it's like my friend Valerie testified earlier, that people are asked to give more but yet they're not getting any more from their employers. They're not getting more income, but they're having, being asked for more, and more, and more of what they have. At some point, the camel's back has to break. We need to be wise with how our money is used.

Again, I know some of the roads are in horrible condition. And, we do need to pay to have them repaired. Is this the only way it can be done? Are we getting the best value for our dollar in road repair? Is there, can we get a better deal looking at

alternative ways to repair these roads? Are there alternative providers out there? There has to be, something has to be done.

I understand money is needed to take care of these problems. We need to be very judicious how we allocate that. That's all I have for right now. Thank you very much for allowing me to testify.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Quimby.

Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you for being here this morning.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: The next testifier, Mr. Wilfred Robello.

MR. WILFRED ROBELLO:

Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR WHITE: Good morning.

MR. ROBELLO: I am a retiree and I live at Hale Mahaolu Ekolu. And, my request gonna seem kind of strange but we, we have, few of us have automobiles where we live and we try to help one another in going shopping. When I go shopping, I take our neighbors with us to do bulk shopping. And, what they do in between, they catch the bus, and do their small shopping. So, when I leave there, I let them know I'm going and some of them take up the offer. And, we bring a whole bunch and drop it right at their house.

But, the registration is kind of expensive. And, I was wondering if you folks would consider making a six months half and half payment. That would really not only help us senior citizens, but I think it would help the low-income people save. The, I'm not, how would you say, ignorant of the needs of the people.

I heard Brewbaker speak one time and he says, we request sidewalks, streets, roads, and everything, and that does not come free. Somebody has to pay for it and that is us. If you want a sidewalk, you have to pay for it. But, if we can get help in paying for these things in sort of a payment manner like insurance, car insurance, it's pretty difficult sometimes, but we have monthly payments we can pay. And, if you folks would at least give it some consideration, that would help us out.

I'm not talking advantage only for the senior citizen, not an amendment or something, but if we could pay, my little car that I, I just gave to my daughter, I paid well over two hundred something dollars. So, I traded with her for a little truck so she could buy a better car. The car was worth more. But, it's still 200 almost 250, yea. So, I would ask you folks to reconsider that and, and perhaps kind of think towards our favor, our needs, yea. Thank you very much.

CHAIR WHITE: Could you state your name for the record please, Mr. Robello?

MR. ROBELLO: Beg your pardon?

CHAIR WHITE: Could you state your name for the record?

MR. ROBELLO: Wilfred Robello.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony.

Members, questions for the testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much.

Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there are no further individuals who have signed up to provide testimony in the chamber. If there is any additional individuals in the Council chamber or at the District Offices who would like to offer testimony, please identify yourself at the, to the appropriate staff and proceed to the testimony lectern or the District Office phone at this time.

Hana Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. LONO: The Hana Office has no one waiting to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Lanai Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. FERNANDEZ: There is no one waiting to testify at Lanai.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

Molokai Office, are there any additional testifiers?

MS. ELLA ALCON: There is no one here on Molokai waiting to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there are no individuals in the District Offices nor the chamber who wish to offer testimony.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Have we received written testimony?

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, we have not received written testimony.

CHAIR WHITE: Thank you very much.

Members, without any objection, the Chair would like to close public testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

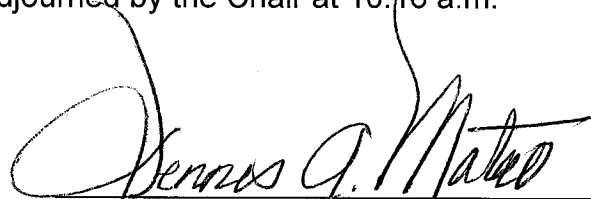
CHAIR WHITE: Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Mr. Chair, there is no further business for the Council.

CHAIR WHITE: Okay. Thank you very much. And with that, we will adjourn this meeting. Please be back here at 11:00 for our Real Property Tax Rate Hearing. We are adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of *MAY 15, 2015*, was adjourned by the Chair at 10:16 a.m.



DENNIS A. MATEO, COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII