

MINUTES

of the

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

MAY 10, 2019

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2019, AT 9:00 A.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, KALANA O MAUI BUILDING, WAILUKU, HAWAII WITH CHAIR KELLY T. KING PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION ENTITLED:

"ADOPTING THE FUEL TAX RATES FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019"

CHAIR KING: Good morning, Maui County. This is the Maui County Council public hearing on Fuel Tax rates, it's 9:00. My name is Kelly King, I'm the Chair of the Maui County Council and this is the May 10, first public hearing, we have two more after this, strictly for Fuel Tax rates, so we will be taking testimony on that.

Mr. Clerk, would you like to call roll?

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS SHANE M. SINENCI, MICHAEL J. MOLINA, ALICE L. LEE, G. RIKI HOKAMA, TAMARA A.M. PALTIN, YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, NATALIE A. KAMA, VICE-CHAIR KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ AND CHAIR KELLY T. KING.

COUNTY CLERK JOSIAH K. NISHITA: Madam Chair, there are nine Members present. A quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Clerk.

Just before we proceed, for those who are out in the audience please silence your noise making devices, phones, iPads and things, and we'll go ahead with public testimony.

Mr. Clerk.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, the Notice of Public Hearing on the proposed resolution "ADOPTING THE FUEL TAX RATES FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2019", was published in the May 2, 5, and 8, 2019 editions of the Maui News.

The public is invited to provide testimony before the Council regarding the proposed Fuel Tax rates for the County of Maui, for Fiscal Year 2020.

Currently, we only have one individual signed up to testify, none in the chamber and one at our Molokai District Office.

Molokai District Office, please introduce your first testifier?

MS. ZHANTELL LINDO: Aloha, Chair. This is Zhan at the Molokai District Office. We have one testifier, Liko Wallace.

CHAIR KING: Aloha, Zhan.

Aloha, Ms. Wallace.

PRESENTATION OF WRITTEN OR ORAL TESTIMONY

MS. LIKO WALLACE:

Aloha, Council Chair King and to the rest of the Council. I am just here to speak my opinions as for the fuel tax and being on Molokai, we already pay a really high fee, so I'm in opposition to up the vehicle, the fuel tax. I'm also opposing putting a higher or even a tax on our biodiesel. Biodiesel is taking the place of the regular fuel and it's helping us to be able to use more ecology, better green stuff to reuse as fuel and it's better for our environment and I really don't think that they should tax biodiesel.

My other concern is, why are we the only County that is paying \$80, we are paying double what the other counties are paying for our renewal of license? I really don't get that. And, that is my take on fuel tax. Mahalo.

CHAIR KING: Thank you, Ms. Wallace. Any questions from Councilmembers? Seeing none, thank you for calling in.

MS. WALLACE: Thank you.

CHAIR KING: Mr. Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, we have one individual signed up to testify in the Council Chamber. Patricia Hunt, Ms. Hunt is the last individual who signed up to testify in the Council chamber or at the District Offices.

MS. PATRICIA HUNT:

Good morning, Chair Kelly, Ms. Kelly, and Councilmembers. My name is Patricia Hunt and I actually was told this was about something else, but I'm going to speak on the tax, because the woman who just spoke brought up a valid point.

The other islands, not only do they pay a lot more, but here in Hawaii, the middle class and average income here is very low. And if you are to raise the tax on these people, they are barely getting by as it is. And I think before you make a vote on this, to seriously consider what the other, why, why is Honolulu and the other, the other counties, what are they paying? And why is it that you guys and your particular county have to raise the taxes so high to burden the other, you know, like Molokai and the other small islands.

I just would like you to see if there is any way that you can find out exactly, if there is another alternative, because the 23 cents may not seem like a lot, but it's like the nickel or the six cents for the, the return on the cans, where you only get five cents back and they're still, the State is still getting the extra penny. Those pennies add up, and those people who have children and who are working and who are middle class or lower middle class, that extra 23 cents is going to affect them and it's going to affect them drastically.

Granted, the tourist, they'll come here, they'll pay it, because they want to come here on vacation. But it's the working-class people here in county in the County of Maui, that I think are going to be greatly affected. So before you guys do, maybe talk to the other counties and find out if there's something that you guys can do across the board. I don't know, I'm not a politician so that's why I'm just throwing it out to you guys.

And I would like to say, I still haven't got my public records request completed yet, so, and I'm trying to get a meeting with Michele McLane, so thank you very much for your time today.

CHAIR KING: Thank you, Ms. Hunt. No questions, Mr. Clerk?

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, there's no further individuals signed up to testify in the Council Chamber or the District Offices.

CHAIR KING: Okay, so we have no further testimony.

Is there any objections to receiving written testimony into the record?

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, WRITTEN TESTIMONY RECEIVED FROM PAMELA TUMPAP OF THE MAUI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WAS MADE A PART OF THE RECORD OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING:

CHAIR KING: Okay, if not, we'll receive this written testimony into the record for today's public hearing and if there's no objections, that we will close public testimony.

Okay. Alright. Seeing no further business for this public hearing, we will, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ:

SO, MOVED.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE:

SECOND.

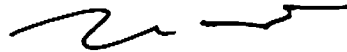
CHAIR KING: Moved by Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, seconded by Member Lee. All those in favor, say "aye".

AYES: COUNCILMEMBERS HOKAMA, KAMA, LEE,
MOLINA, PALTIN, SINENCI, SUGIMURA,
VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, AND
CHAIR KING.

CHAIR KING: Meeting is adjourned. Next meeting at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of May 10, 2019, was adjourned by the Chair at 9:07 a.m.



JOSIAH K. NISHITA, COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**Testimony on the Proposed FY20 Fuel Tax Rates
Friday, May 10, 2019**

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King and
Members of the Economic Development and Budget Committee,

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the Fuel Tax Rates.

We appreciate that both the Mayor and Council are looking to keep the Fuel Tax rates the same for all fuel categories except Biodiesel.

With respect to Biodiesel, we are proud of the efforts to create Biodiesel and spur the use of this fuel on Maui. It was a tremendous effort that we all continue to benefit from today. We also support subsidizing Biodiesel to further encourage its use. And, as we move to more shared and sustainable solutions, we feel Biodiesel could contribute a nominal amount that would not discourage use, while contributing to needed community improvements. A rate as low as \$.01 would be a nice demonstration that we are all in this together.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President