

PUBLIC HEARING

MAY 17, 2017

A public hearing of the Council of the County of Kaua'i was called to order by Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair, Budget & Finance Committee, on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at 1:39 p.m., at the Council Chambers, 4396 Rice Street, Suite 201, Historic County Building, Līhu'e, and the presence of the following was noted:

Honorable Arthur Brun  
Honorable Mason K. Chock  
Honorable Ross Kagawa  
Honorable Arryl Kaneshiro  
Honorable Derek S.K. Kawakami  
Honorable JoAnn A. Yukimura  
Honorable Mel Rapozo

The Clerk read the notice of the public hearing on the following:

“Bill No. 2649 – A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. B-2016-812, AS AMENDED, RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I, STATE OF HAWAII, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2016 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2017, BY REVISING THE AMOUNTS ESTIMATED IN THE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT FUND (*Housing Agency, 3920 Hooa Street, #113 Purchase*),”

which was ordered to print by the Council of the County of Kaua'i on April 27, 2017, and published in The Garden Island newspaper on May 5, 2017.

The hearing proceeded as follows:

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Do we have any registered speakers?

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA, County Clerk: We have no registered speakers and have not received any written testimony, Committee Chair Kaneshiro.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Is there anyone in the audience wishing to testify on this? Ana.

ANA MOHAMAD DESMARAIS: It will not be three (3) minutes, I promise. I just want to take the opportunity to talk about affordability. I think it is fantastic that you are purchasing homes and reselling them at a descent price for there to be affordable housing in the true sense of what affordable is. It should be reconsidered when it is time to think of the cost of the Hanamā'ulu project to establish truly affordable housing, which in my opinion, one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for a townhome duplex would be affordable, and three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) for a single-family residence would be considered affordable. Anything more than that is just a higher tax bracket. When you get to six hundred fifty thousand dollar (\$650,000) homes, you need to be earning about one hundred twenty thousand dollars plus (\$120,000+), and that is a high tax bracket to be in.

I also want to take the opportunity to mention the police force that we have on our island. I want to acknowledge the beautiful respect I have for the fact that they acted in accordance to what I feel ought to be the way of the police behavior on this island. The last thing that should happen is that our police should be prosecuting people well within their human rights. I feel it is against their Code of Ethics and it is against their oath to protect and serve. I wanted to take that opportunity.

Committee Chair Kaneshiro: Okay. Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to testify? Seeing none, this public hearing is now adjourned.

There being no further testimony, the public hearing adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a trailing line, positioned above the printed name.

JADE K. FOUNTAIN-TANIGAWA  
County Clerk

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