

Good morning to all,

My name is Beverly Powers and my husband and I own a property at [REDACTED].

Michael's parents bought this property in 1967 and we have been taking care of it since their deaths. When Michael's brother died, we had to take a mortgage of 250,000.00 to pay off our nieces and nephews for his half of the condo. Our overhead with property tax is 3,000.00 a month so we have to rent the property out to keep it.

In 2019 our profit / loss was +300.00 so we covered our costs and were able to keep the condo.

In March 2020 when the Covid 19 virus was in full swing one by one our cruise ship clients cancelled, followed by Canadian clients. Then when the Island of Hawaii was completely on lock down all of our renters cancelled one by one all the way through November of 2020. When the island finally opened up we had a few renters in December 2020.

In 2020 WE BECAME HOME OWNERS and lost COMPLETE ability to be SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTY OWNERS. We had to borrow 17,000.00 to pay taxes and renters back since everyone cancelled and we had to fully refund their money because it was the right thing to do.

If we ARE DEDICATED HOME OWNERS only our property tax would be: 3.50 per 1,000.00

Since we are categorized as SHORT TERM RENTAL PROPERTY OUR TAX is: 13.90 per 1,000.00

JULY 2019-JUNE 2020 TAX: 11,857.28

JULY 2020-JUNE 2021 TAX: 10,141.26

We contend that for 2020 tax year that the CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU do the right thing and charge the property owners the DEDICATED rate NOT the SHORT TERM RENTAL rate.

As a business, you have an ethical responsibility to us to do the right thing. When you take away our ability to rent and then charge us 10x the property tax as those who don't rent out, after stripping our ability to earn the income, it is criminal and unjust.

It is important to note that I called the CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU last year to ask for help and see if they were going to adjust our tax rate multiplier and I was told that I should have done that in Sept. 2019 for 2020 tax year. This has put us in the position of needing to sell our condo. Please consider our plight and make the ethical adjustments on our tax liability for the past year and current year as we are recouping from this shutdown.

Thank you,

Beverly Powers  
Michael Powers