

Aloha David, Guy and the Charter Commission,

I want to voice my opinion about the Land Fund issue you will vote on next Thursday, January 21. It amazes me that this is even an issue. The 2% for the Land Fund is one of the best things any government has done for the people and for this island in a very long time. It is what 63% of the voters approved in 2006.

Think carefully about what that means: what other initiative have you ever seen that is so publically supported as this one. It is working well and accomplishing its purpose. In the face of the current economic stresses, along comes a proposal to lower the amount to ½ percent.

I am sure that it is difficult for the Mayor or the County Council to see these funds accumulate and not want to control them or use them for other purposes. That is the very reason to protect them.

The “easy” way is not the best way in this case. The 2% fund is for our children and our grandchildren to inherit an island that has open spaces, clear vistas, and important places preserved for them.

Please vote down the ½ percent amendment on Thursday and retain the 2% for the voters to decide. Thank you very much.

Bob Martin, P.O. Box 2, Hawi, HI 96719, 808 889-5025