

PLEASE SUPPORT 2% LAND FUND

Aloha Charter Commission Members,

Please put the 2% Land Fund on the ballot. I am a thirty year Hawaii resident and I agree With the points Debbie Hecht has made. 1/2 a percent isn't nearly enough.

- Reinststate the 2% amount. 63% of voters approved this in 2006. The commissioners do NOT think we will vote for this again.PLEASE reassure them. Ask them to PUT THE 2% LAND FUND ON THE BALLOT and let the VOTERS DECIDE!
- We need the 2% amount or \$4 million per year not the ½% or \$1 million that is currently being proposed. The \$11 million in the fund is depleted with the exciting purchase of 151 acres at Kaiholena in North Kohala for \$6.7 million and the soon to be purchased 2nd portion of Kawa Bay for \$3.9 million. To see the Open Space commission's recommended purchases for 2009 go to <http://www.hawaii-county.com/finance/ponc.htm>
- It needs to be stated that the highest and best use of the Land Fund is to seek dollar-for -dollar matching funds to double the money in the fund to maximize land conservation.
- It needs to be stated that the land fund should be an interest bearing account. AND that deposits should be made after property taxes are collected twice per year so more funds are available and interest can accrue. So far we have added \$403,551.00 in interest since late 2006 to January 2010.
- It needs to be stated that the Land fund be used for acquisition and NOT for maintenance OR development of parks. IN the 2007-08 Hawaii county report it states that \$7.1 million in the budget is to be used for park maintenance.
- It needs to be clarified that IF the 2% tax set aside is used to pay the debt on an Open Space Bond, that the bond should not be part of an aggregate bond issue, so that citizens can watchdog how the fund is used to pay fees, commissions and other bond expenses.

Mahalo,
Shannon Rudolph
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