

SCR 191

SR 126

Senator Ige, and members of the Committee:

I am Marcia Linville speaking in support of SCR 191 and SR 126. I know the members have seen me before in a variety of positions. I have been an officer in both Library Professional Organizations, HGEA, Hawaii Literacy, The Democratic Party's Legislative Liaison for Education, and a number of others over the past thirty years or so.

This resolution impacts all of them. A wise man said that the power to tax is the power to destroy. A wiser one said that it is the power to create and to form a state and a people.

The early legislatures recognized this when they removed our schools from dependency on property taxes. They recognized the need to promote development in providing lower tax rates for corporations. Now Hawaii is in a new time when new demands are being placed on the resources of the people. Transportation is a hugely expensive, crucial need. Tourism is one of our main sources of income. State workers need to be paid at a competitive rate in order to retain them. To expect this burden to fall heavily on the owners of property is no longer reasonable. Older retired people on fixed incomes will lose their homes. Rents will be raised to the point when the average worker can no longer afford them. There is no point in raising wages if they are immediately returned in the form of taxes.

What we need, what we are asking for, is a review of an inequitable, obsolete, patchwork put together at different times to remedy different problems.

This is the 21st century. We need a 21st century tax structure.

Thank you

Marcia Linville
536-4466