

COUNTY OF HAWAI‘I

Real Property Tax FAQ’s

If lava covers my land, does the County adjust my real property taxes?

The Hawaii County Code does allow the remission of taxes for properties covered by the lava. Real Property Tax is working with Civil Defense closely on identifying these parcels and making the adjustments to the current tax year as well as the upcoming tax year. For those that made the payment on the February 2018 bill, you may receive a credit if one is due. If your address changed, please let the Real Property Tax Office know by calling (808) 961-8201.

If my property is lava-locked and inaccessible, even if it itself is not covered, does the County make an adjustment on real estate taxes?

These parcels would be considered to have a \$0 value as an area directly adversely affected by the lava and we would make the adjustments as previously discussed.

What if I live in Leilani Estates and I can still access my house, but I can’t live there due to safety concerns with the lava, what does the County do?

The County Code states that property is valued as of January 1 each year. Adjustment of those values at this point in time will require a proclamation by the Mayor, authorizing the Real Property Tax office to re-evaluate these parcels. The Mayor and the Finance Director are both in support of this action. Real Property Tax is carefully watching the situation and monitoring the extent of the evacuations, cracks surfacing and the overall effect of this event. The impact will be considered in determining adjusted values and tax reduction before the next tax bills are sent out.

What does my insurance company need so I can get reimbursed?

The Real Property Tax Office has spoken with several different companies already. So far, all companies have preferred to have their own inspector verify the structure has burned down. Since we confirmed that access is very limited and difficult at this moment, some have accepted pictures of the burned structure with some form of verification. The Real Property Tax Office is working with all available data, including flight imagery to provide confirmation to Housing and Civil Defense of burned and damaged structure.

To change your mailing address or if you have further questions regarding your real property tax, please contact the Hilo office at (808) 961-8201.