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Alice L. Lee



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Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.


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Gabe Johnson
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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 30, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Chair, Maui County Council 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 31, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 563, RELATING TO PERMITTED INTERACTIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure would allow councilmembers to attend a public informational meeting or presentation, including a meeting of another entity, legislative hearing, convention, seminar, or community meeting, without fearing that their might violate the Sunshine Law.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would improve councilmembers' ability to engage with the public and be informed about issues facing their district and county. It is particularly important for Kauai County and Maui County, where all councilmembers are elected by and represent all residents.
2. Attending these public events, such as community organization meetings or forums will not jeopardize openness in government because councilmembers do not have control over agendas, discussions, or outcomes of meetings conducted by external organizations.
3. This measure is an important step toward enabling county councilmembers the freedom to educate themselves and carry out their duties more efficiently, just as State legislators do.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure

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