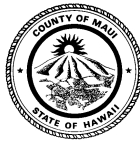Council Chair
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Vice-Chair
  Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
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March 13, 2023

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and
          Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee
          Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2023; TESTIMONY IN <u>SUPPORT</u> OF HB 1255, HD1, RELATING TO SPECIAL PURPOSE REVENUE BONDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Department of Budget and Finance to issue special purpose revenue bonds for up to $20 million to assist with the construction of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center.

On December 16, 2022, the Maui County Council adopted Resolution 22-252, CD1, "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE PROPOSED WEST MAUI HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER" (attached). Therefore, I am providing this testimony on the Council's behalf.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure would provide the financial support necessary to continue the development of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center, which will provide the region with its first acute care hospital.

2. An acute care hospital is needed because unprecedented projected rates of growth in residents and visitors will substantially increase healthcare demands for the already underserved West Maui population.

3. The West Maui Hospital and Medical Center will create significant job opportunities for local residents trained in health care.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.

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