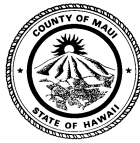


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Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
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Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
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Gabe Johnson
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March 31, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 3, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1363,
HD3, SD1, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure grants Maui County the authority to enact a General Excise Tax surcharge until the end of the year and allows the revenue to be used for housing infrastructure.

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. The median sale price for a single-family home in Maui County exceeds \$1 million. A Maui County surcharge on State GET will generate funding to increase capacity to support much-needed affordable and workforce housing infrastructure.
2. According to the Census, the median household income for a family in Maui County is \$88,249; however, according to the Living Wage Calculator, a living wage for a family of four in Maui County is \$118,043. Cost of living in Maui County often prevents residents from purchasing a home. A County surcharge would support funding to provide homeownership opportunities.
3. In hope and anticipation of this measure being enacted, the Maui County Council is working with Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr. and his Administration to begin deliberations on the necessary ordinance for a County GET surcharge.

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