

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



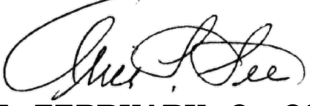
Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Health and Homelessness

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB1563, RELATING TO TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The measure's purposes are to prohibit the sale of flavored tobacco products and mislabeled e-liquid products that contain nicotine and to repeal language making the sale of tobacco and electronic smoking devices a statewide concern and preempting county ordinances and regulations.

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 allow counties to prohibit retailers from displaying, marketing, or selling flavored tobacco or nicotine products, which often have a far greater nicotine content than cigarettes.
2. It would allow communities to maintain drug-free educational environments where flavored nicotine vape products, which are often targeted to youth consumers, are prohibited.
3. This measure would also help reduce the physical- and mental-health impacts caused by long-term use of flavored tobacco and nicotine products.

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

ocs:proj:legis:23legis:23testimony:hb1563\_paf24-002(17)\_rem