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January 27, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 30, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1638, RELATING TO COUNTY LABOR STANDARDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. Its purpose is to grant counties the power to adopt labor standards, including living wages, benefits, and requirements for participation in State-approved apprenticeship programs.

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. It could help Maui County establish the policies in the minimum wage bills (HB111 and SB230) and paid family leave bills (HB1876 and SB2207) that the Maui County Council proposed to the 32nd Legislature.
2. Allowing counties to adopt living wage standards would increase the number and proportion of living wage jobs, further improving Maui County's business climate.
3. Allowing counties to adopt labor standards would retain and attract more local labor and facilitate the creation of living wage jobs.
4. Adopting requirements for participating in apprenticeship programs could provide Hawaii residents access to stable careers and income.

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