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## COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI  
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[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 9, 2024

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 11, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2610,  
HD1, RELATING TO DISASTER RELIEF**

I **support** this measure to establish the Disaster Relief Match Special Fund, providing the local match for projects under the Federal Emergency Management Agency's Maui Wildfires Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

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 estimated cost of rebuilding after the August 2023 Maui wildfires is billions of dollars. Collaboration between and funding from Federal, State, and County governments will be necessary to overcome this immense cost. This measure provides valuable funding for the rebuilding effort.
2. The establishment of the Disaster Relief Match Special Fund would alleviate the burden on local authorities and communities in securing the necessary funds to meet the required match amounts set by FEMA. This measure would enable the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency to access federal grants that might otherwise be out of reach.
3. This measure will make it more likely that our communities will be able to take advantage of FEMA's HMGP funding and will assist Maui County and the State in rebuilding safer, stronger, and smarter in creating a more resilient Hawaii by mitigating the impact of natural hazards.

Thank you for your consideration.