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March 18, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 19, 2024; COMMENTS ON SB1099, SD1,
RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer the following comments as an individual member of the Maui County Council:

1. Recovery from the August 2023 wildfires is causing unprecedented financial challenges for Maui County and the State.
2. To respond to the challenges, I suggest an amendment in the bill so that Maui County would be allowed additional time to amend its ordinance establishing a surcharge on the State General Excise Tax (Chapter 3.100, Maui County Code).
3. With additional time to amend its ordinance, the Maui County Council could consider changing the designated allocations for revenue from the surcharge. For instance, the ordinance now has a 20 percent set-aside for a State agency. I would suggest that the set aside be suspended for three years to allow for the revenue to be appropriated to more urgent matters, such as infrastructure for County-supported housing projects.

Thank you for your consideration.

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