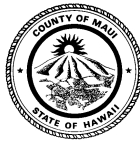


Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

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

March 17, 2024

TO: The Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Water & Land

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 19, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2085,
SD2, RELATING TO THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

I **support** this measure to reestablish the State Fire Marshal position to direct statewide efforts to protect people and property against fire loss.

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 common-sense proposal in response to the August 2023 Lahaina wildfires will help provide dedicated support for statewide wildfire prevention and protection that already exists in every other state in the nation.
2. The centralized coordination the State Fire Marshal will provide is a health and safety priority. The measure acknowledges that reestablishing this position will fill gaps in State and local enforcement, provide leadership in fire and arson investigations, and ensure mitigation of wildfire risk.
3. Maui County has experienced devastating impacts to life, property, safety, and security as consequences of the recent wildfires. Reestablishing the State Fire Marshal position is a reasonable and cost-effective step that will increase safeguards and protect residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration.