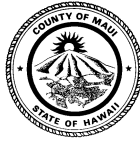


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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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March 15, 2016

TO: The Honorable Tom Brower, Chair  
House Committee on Tourism

FROM: Mike White  
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 16, 2016; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 83 SD 1, RELATING TO APPROPRIATIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this measure. The purpose of this measure is to make a \$3 million appropriation from the Tourism Special Fund for travel expenses and subsidies incurred by the intercollegiate athletics program of the University of Hawaii.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this matter. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Tourism Special Fund exists to promote Hawaii and its visitor attractions. In Maui County, some of the fund's resources are used by nonprofit organizations and the County government, via grants from the Hawaii Tourism Authority, for cultural, educational, entertainment, and sporting events, including the Maui Invitational college basketball tournament, that attract visitors. Funding for these events should not be put in jeopardy by having Tourism Special Fund revenue redirected to non-visitor-related programs.
2. The counties are fighting for a fair share of Transient Accommodation Tax revenue during this session, to ensure the indispensable visitor services they provide can be sustained. The State already takes too much TAT revenue for non-tourism purposes. The TAT should not be further weakened by siphoning more revenue to unessential (though laudatory) purposes.

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