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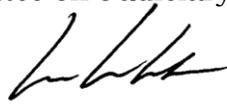


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January 25, 2016

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 26, 2015; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO
HB 369, RELATING TO OPEN GOVERNMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this bill. The purpose of this measure is to amend certain policies regarding the facilitation of public participation and input.

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 Maui County Council.

I oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. The Maui County Council invests in tools to promote open government in ways that benefit Lanai, Maui, and Molokai residents. For instance, the Council maintains offices in Hana, Kaunakakai, and Lanai City to allow residents living in remote areas to provide live testimony without needing to travel to the County Building in Wailuku. In addition, the Council has initiated a program to make legislation, reference documents, video live streams, and video archives available online. Other boards could consider similar programs, as warranted. Additional State-imposed requirements are not needed or beneficial.
2. Under the current Sunshine Law, testimony is intended to be in response to items listed on meeting agendas. Everyone has an equal opportunity to evaluate agenda items and consider the submission of testimony, either in writing or in person. If testimony is allowed in response to deliberations, as provided in this measure, lobbyists and others who are paid to attend meetings will have an unfair advantage.
3. This measure imprudently burdens State agencies and the counties with unfunded mandates.

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