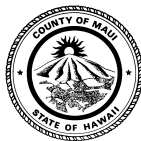


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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 7, 2018

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

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

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1683, RELATING TO THE CONVEYANCE TAX**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to establish an additional conveyance tax rate for the sale of certain condominiums or single family residences and allocate the revenue collected in each county from the additional conveyance tax rate to the respective county's affordable housing fund.

This measure is included in the Maui County Legislative Package. Therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. In each of the four counties, creating additional affordable housing units is a top priority. Demand is far outpacing supply and creative solutions and resources are needed for each county to uniquely address the dire shortage of housing.
2. Placing a conveyance tax on properties over \$2 million in value is a new way to generate additional revenue. Since the value is relatively high compared to average home prices, the transactions are not likely to adversely impact owners or working families.
3. Without a drastic change in the way affordable housing is supported, the ongoing housing supply crises will not be resolved. This proposal adds another tool to supplement the counties current efforts and will help to purchase existing housing units and other interests in real property; allow for the planning, design, or construction of housing units; allow for grants or loans to nonprofit organizations, including community land trusts; and allow for investment in public infrastructure.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **support** this measure.