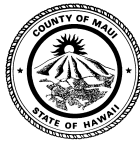


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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 12, 2018

TO: The Honorable Cindy Evans, Chair
House Committee on Economic Development & Business

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 14, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2671 HD 1, RELATING TO EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important bill. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to collaboratively develop and implement solutions to assist dislocated workers and to address the continued availability of gainful employment on the island of Molokai.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, 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. Molokai continues to have one of the highest unemployment rates in the State of Hawaii. The island has suffered from tumultuous economic downturns due to the closing of the pineapple plantations, the closing of the Kaluakoi Resort, the relocation of large scale agricultural production to Oahu, the closure of Molokai Ranch, and now the impending shutdown of Mycogen Seeds. Action must be taken to prevent an additional downturn.
2. With the impending closure of Mycogen, approximately 82 displaced workers will add to the already high unemployment rate. These funds will help mitigate impacts by supporting collaboration among multiple entities to provide innovative solutions.
3. It is impractical for many Molokai residents to relocate for employment, and options for inter-island transportation are limited. This bill will assist to create opportunities for residents of the island.

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

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