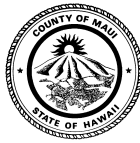


Council Chair  
Mike White

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Stacy Crivello

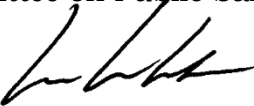
Councilmembers  
Alika Atay  
Elle Cochran  
Don S. Guzman  
Riki Hokama  
Kelly T. King  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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February 1, 2018

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Mike White  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2692, RELATING TO COMMUNITY MEETINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to exempt members of a county council from the limitation on the number of members that may attend an informational meeting or presentation on matters relating to official board business and clarifies that such meetings for which two or more members of a board, but less than a quorum, may attend shall be meetings that are open to the public.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure, but a nearly identical measure is included in the Hawaii State Association of Counties Package. 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. This measure would improve councilmembers' ability to engage with the public and be informed about issues facing their district and county. It is particularly important for Kauai County and Maui County, where all councilmembers are elected by and represent all residents.
2. Attending these public events, such as community organization meetings or forums will not jeopardize openness in government because councilmembers do not have control over agendas, discussions, or outcomes of meetings conducted by external organizations.
3. This measure is an important step toward enabling county councils the freedom to educate themselves and carry out their duties more efficiently, as state legislators now currently enjoy.

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