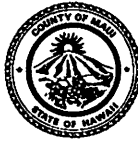


Council Chair
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Vice-Chair
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Tasha Kama

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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 18, 2020

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2686, SB 1, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to extend the period that a county may adopt a surcharge on the State General Excise Tax to September 30, 2020.

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. This measure would provide much-needed diversification of Maui County's ability to generate revenue, allowing for greater investment in infrastructure and other priorities for Maui County's residents while limiting the burden on residents subject to the Real Property Tax.
2. Maui County is the only county in the State that is not receiving the benefits of a GET surcharge.
3. Maui County Council legislative efforts to establish a GET surcharge are underway in anticipation of State legislation granting the authority. The Council referred my bill for an ordinance establishing the surcharge to its Economic Development and Budget Committee earlier this month.

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

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