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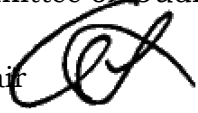


Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

June 23, 2020

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JUNE 24, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2038, SD1, RELATING TO BOARD MEMBERS, WITH PROPOSED REVISIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure, **with proposed revisions** to allow Sunshine Law boards to meet by video conference without opening up each board member's location to the public, subject to the following conditions.

- All members of the public may testify from anywhere via phone or video conference.
- At least one physical location is listed on the meeting agenda as a site where in-person testimony will be accepted.

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, with the proposed revisions referenced above, for the following reasons:

1. I have been pleased by public participation over the last few months during which the Maui County Council and its committees conducted meetings solely by video conference and maintained social distancing, in accordance with the Governor's COVID-19 emergency proclamations partially suspending the Sunshine Law. During its Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Session, the Council's Economic Development and Budget Committee received live testimony via telephone and video conference from hundreds of constituents on all three populated islands of the County.
2. Members of the public and media have responded favorably to the Council's conduct of meetings by video conference. May I please call your attention to the following articles:

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary
June 23, 2020
Page 2

- “Maui Council Has Figured Out How To Do Virtual Meetings Right,” May 10, 2020, *Civil Beat*:
<https://tinyurl.com/MauiRemote>
 - “Maui officials rely on technology to conduct business in time of social separation,” April 5, 2020, *Honolulu Star-Advertiser*:
<https://tinyurl.com/MauiNuiMeetings>
3. I would like to keep a similar system in place even after the Governor fully reinstates the Sunshine Law. The proposed revisions would promote public participation while providing safety and convenience for board members and the public.
 4. Allowing for meetings by video conference, without opening up each board member’s location to the public, would minimize the need for board members to travel to a central meeting location, saving money for county and State taxpayers and reducing greenhouse-gas emissions.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure, **with proposed revisions**.

cc: Maui County Councilmembers
Executive Committee, Hawaii State Association of Counties
Arryl Kaneshiro, Chair, Kauai County Council
Aaron Chung, Chair, Hawaii County Council
Ikaika Anderson, Chair, Honolulu City Council

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