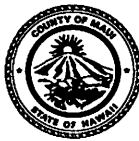


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Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

March 10, 2020

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 11, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2692,
SD 2, RELATING TO THE NA WAI EHA WATERSHED**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to acquire the Na Wai Eha watershed using land conservation funds.

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. The Na Wai Eha watershed, composed of native koa, ohia, and luma forests, hidden valleys, and mountains reaching 5,000 feet, the habitat for over 45 endangered species, and the principal source of Maui's drinking water, is a tremendous environmental asset to the County of Maui.
2. Acquisition of the watershed will provide for its protection and promote new stewardship opportunities.
3. This measure will preserve and protect 11,020 acres of this critical watershed for public recreation, cultural gathering, and endangered species in perpetuity.

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