



## **MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL STANDARDS OF DECORUM**

In a democracy, it is necessary to provide for public input and official deliberations in an environment that is safe and free from disruption and interference. The conduct of all meeting attendees and participants should confirm the equal worth and dignity of every individual. To these ends, the following standards of decorum are established for the Council Chamber and the adjacent lobby, as well as meetings held by video conference technology, in accordance with the Maui County Code and the Rules of the Council.

- 1) Testimony must be limited to commentary on agenda items. Testifiers must direct their testimony to the body (through its chair), and not to observers or any individual official or member of the public, personally. Applause is appropriate only during ceremonies.
- 2) Any person who engages in heckling, shouting, or other disorderly conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Council or committee meeting will, at the discretion of the presiding officer or a majority of present Council members, be removed from the Council Chamber or muted, ejected, or banned from the video conference meeting. Behavior that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council meeting includes profane, slanderous, or threatening remarks made to any member of the Council, staff, or general public.
- 3) Displays, posters, and signs may not be erected or posted on walls or other fixed locations. These items may be held or carried, but not in a way that unreasonably obstructs another's view of the proceedings or risks causing injury to others.
- 4) While a meeting is in progress, the use of cell phones or any other noise-making devices is prohibited. Conversations in the gallery and the lobby should be conducted in a manner that does not disturb others in the Chamber. Photographs and video recordings may be taken from the gallery (without flash or lamps) if it does not distract others or detract from the proceedings.
- 5) At all times, only legislative personnel and other persons authorized by the presiding officer or the Council Chair are allowed on the Chamber floor (the area where the body is seated). Furthermore, while a meeting is in progress, only legislative personnel and other authorized persons may approach a seated Council member.
- 6) News reporters from established news organizations may access the area around the press desk on the Chamber floor and may take photographs or video recordings from that location (without flash or lamps). If a meeting is not in progress, reporters may approach Council members on the Chamber floor for the limited purpose of arranging for discussions later. The presiding officer or Council Chair may authorize other arrangements.
- 7) The consumption of food and beverages in the gallery of the Council Chamber is prohibited, unless required for medical purposes.
- 8) Testifiers will be asked to disconnect from the video conference technology employed for the meeting once their testimony has concluded. Once the testimony period has closed, only the Councilmembers, staff, and designated resource persons will be connected to the video conference meeting. All other individuals will be disconnected. They will be able to view the remainder of the meeting on Akaku Channel 53 or on MauiCounty.us. Individuals may be disconnected from a meeting for breaking decorum.

*These standards are enforced by the meeting's presiding officer, who has the authority to order violators removed from the Chamber or video conference meeting. For clarification, contact the Office of Council Services (270-7838) or the Office of the County Clerk (270-7748) on the 7th floor.*