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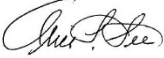


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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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February 16, 2021

TO: Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

DATE: February 17, 2021

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO HB 1286, RELATING TO TRAVEL**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt any person from the post-arrival mandatory self-quarantine if the person receives a negative test result prior to arrival.

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 oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. State policy should set the minimum health standards while allowing the counties the flexibility to set the appropriate, stronger safety thresholds above that to reflect the unique capacity and needs of the individual islands even within a county.
2. This measure deprives the counties of self-rule and fails to appreciate the different challenges facing the different counties. It also fails protect rural communities, such as Hana, and their limited capacity to deal with surge cases.
3. While I appreciate and acknowledge the hardships the pandemic has caused everyone in Hawaii, especially the tourism industry and small businesses, the current system is working and allows counties to react to the needs of their relative communities.

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