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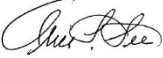


Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

February 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: February 2, 2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 503, RELATING TO BOARD MEETINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is allow boards to use interactive conference technology to remotely conduct public meetings under the Sunshine Law in conjunction with in-person meetings, even when no emergency has been declared by government authorities.

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. Because of the Governor's temporary partial suspension of the Sunshine Law due to the COVID-19 pandemic, virtual meetings have been held using interactive conference technology since March 2020. The practice has been favorably received by the public.
2. Interactive conference technology has shown to be an effective tool that has allowed Councilmembers and the public the ability to participate from any location, including their offices or residences, while ensuring public safety, government transparency, and efficiency.
3. The Maui County Council Package contains legislation with a similar purpose (HB 190 and SB 442).

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