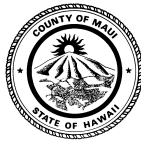


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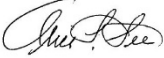


Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 10, 2021

TO: Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: February 11, 2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 645, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to extend the period in which a county may adopt a surcharge on state tax, under certain conditions, from 3/31/2019 to 12/31/2021 and to authorize the use of county surcharge revenues for affordable and workforce housing infrastructure.

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. This measure would help support the development of much-needed infrastructure for housing units in Maui County.
2. This measure would help ensure skilled employees stay in Maui County, providing economic and social benefits to the community, instead of leaving because of a lack of housing options.
3. The County and the state have a mutual interest in supporting infrastructure projects, especially transportation infrastructure projects, which promote affordable housing development. County and state officials have already prioritized a list of projects in conjunction with the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization where funding could be utilized. Passing this measure will help chip away at the affordable housing demand so greatly needed by our residents.

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