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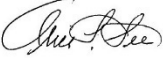


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March 14, 2021

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: March 16, 2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 1034 SD1, RELATING TO SUNSHINE LAW BOARDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to expand board and public participation by giving boards the option, in conjunction with in-person meetings, to use interactive conference technology to remotely conduct public meetings under the Sunshine Law, 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. Under the Governor's temporary partial suspension of the Sunshine Law due to COVID-19, the Maui County Council and other boards have held virtual meetings since March 2020. The practice has been favorably received by the public and could be made permanent by this measure.
2. Interactive conference technology has allowed Councilmembers and the public the ability to participate in meetings from any location, including offices or residences, while ensuring public safety, government transparency, and efficiency. This measure would allow Maui County residents from all parts of Maui, Lanai, and Molokai easier means of providing live testimony to both State and County boards. Promoting the use of remote meetings means broader civic engagement.
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.