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COUNTY COUNCIL

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

March 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee

Council Chair

DATE: March 3, 2021

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB 645 SD1, 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 to December 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 that promote affordable-housing development. County and State officials, in conjunction with the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, have already prioritized a list of projects where funding could be utilized.

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