

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



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

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

January 23, 2022

TO: Honorable Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senate Committee on Labor, Culture and the Arts

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: January 23, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2018, RELATING TO MINIMUM WAGE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to increase the hourly minimum wage for certain employees incrementally to \$12 on October 1, 2022, \$15 on January 1, 2024, and \$18 on January 1, 2026.

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. It is in the interest of all Hawai'i to support Hawai'i's workforce and essential workers by increasing the minimum wage.
2. Increasing the State's minimum wage will help Hawai'i's economy by giving workers greater purchasing power in the local marketplace.
3. According to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, a single adult required an income of \$35,143 to achieve self-sufficiency in Hawai'i in 2018, while a single parent with one child required \$59,428. Yet, at the minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour, a full-time employee earns only \$21,008 annually.

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