

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

February 13, 2022

TO: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 13, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 2618, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish and fund an environmental investigative hotline pilot project through the Department of the Attorney General, Investigations Division, that will implement and manage an investigative hotline for Moloka'i residents to report environmental concerns on Moloka'i and have one full time investigator on the island of Moloka'i to investigate environmental concerns.

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. A full time employee is necessary to respond to environmentally hazardous activities in a timely manner to ensure the health and safety of the residents of Moloka'i.
2. Not having state department staff physically present to address a situation when a complaint is made incurs delays in response time and hampers the ability of a government inspector to witness possible violations and issue enforceable citations.
3. Having a multi-departmental investigative hotline offers residents a way to report concerns and violations to someone in a remote location.
4. The assignment of a trained investigator to rural areas who can communicate directly to state departments may save the state departments the unpredictable costs of travel and other related expenses.

February 13, 2022
Page 2

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

ocs:proj:legis:22legis:22testimony:sb2618_paf22-018(40)a_pmg