

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](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 18, 2022

TO: Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Health

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: March 18, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 1635, HD2, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure, with a proposed amendment. The purpose of this measure is to establish the rural health task force within the Department of Health to develop solutions and make recommendations on registered nurse recruitment and retention in rural areas of East Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.

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, with a proposed amendment, for the following reasons:

1. There is a vital need for healthcare workers in rural areas of East Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i.
2. These communities will benefit from the implementation of the task force's solutions and recommendations regarding the recruitment and retention of registered nurses in rural areas.
3. The proposed amendment would include representation on the rural health task force from Maui County's four Federally Qualified Health Centers: Mālama I Ke Ola Health Center, Molokai Community Health Center, Lāna'i Community Health Center, and Hāna Health to provide inclusive and comprehensive input.

For the foregoing reasons, I **SUPPORT** this measure, with a proposed amendment.