

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

March 1, 2022

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: March 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 1745, HD1, RELATING TO APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO SUPPORT HAWAII'S FOOD BANKS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure to appropriate funds to support Hawaii's food banks.

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. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity throughout the State, with many in our communities facing increasing difficulties in meeting their basic needs for food and nutrition.
2. Many of our working families rely on organizations like the Maui Food Bank to provide the food assistance they need to prevent hunger and the negative health, employment, education and other outcomes that result from hunger and inadequate sustenance.
3. With the decline in federal funding for local food assistance, additional support from the State is needed to ensure there are no gaps in the ability of Maui Food Bank to serve our community members in need.

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