



MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL STANDARDS OF DECORUM

In a democracy, providing for public input and official deliberations in an environment that is safe and free from disruption and interference is imperative. The conduct of all meeting attendees and participants should confirm the equal worth and dignity of every individual. To these ends, the following standards of decorum are established for the Council Chamber, the adjacent lobby, and other in-person and online meeting sites of the Maui County Council and its committees under relevant provisions of Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Maui County Code, and Rules of the Council.

- 1) Testimony must be limited to commentary on agenda items. Testifiers must direct their testimony to the Councilmembers, through the meeting's presiding officer, and not to observers or any individual official or member of the public. Applause is only appropriate during ceremonies.
- 2) Any person who engages in conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise compromises the orderly conduct of any Council or committee meeting will be removed from the Council Chamber or other in-person meeting site or muted, blocked, ejected, or banned from online meeting. Behavior that disrupts, disturbs, or impedes the orderly conduct of any Council or committee meeting includes heckling, shouting, profane, slanderous, discriminatory, or threatening remarks made to any member of the Council, staff, or general public.
- 3) To testify anonymously at an in-person meeting, the testifier must notify staff at sign up and request a testifier number. To testify anonymously at an online meeting, the testifier must sign in as "anonymous" to receive a testifier number.
- 4) Meeting attendees are expected to wear clothing that is appropriate and respectful of the proceedings and of others. For example, all testifiers should wear a shirt or top when attending meetings in person or online.
- 5) Displays, posters, and signs may not be erected or posted on walls or other fixed locations. These items may be held or carried, but not in a way that unreasonably obstructs another's view of the proceedings or risks causing injury to others.
- 6) While a meeting is in progress, the disruptive use of cell phones or any other noise-making devices is prohibited. Conversations in the gallery and the lobby should be conducted in a manner that does not disturb others in the Chamber. Photographs and video recordings may be taken from the gallery without flash or lamps if it can be done without distracting others or detracting from the proceedings.
- 7) At all times, only legislative personnel and other persons authorized by the presiding officer are allowed on the Chamber floor, which is the area where the Councilmembers are seated. While a meeting is in progress, only legislative personnel and other authorized persons may approach a seated Councilmember.
- 8) The consumption of food and beverages in the gallery of the Council Chamber is prohibited, unless required for medical purposes.
- 9) The meeting's presiding officer is responsible for enforcing these standards and has the authority to order violators removed.