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February 27, 2026

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 3, 2026; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2849, SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC MEETINGS**

I **oppose** this measure to require certain information to appear at the beginning of notices for public meetings.

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 **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-7.5 contemplates a board packet only if a board chooses to compile one and expressly states that nothing in the statute requires a board packet's creation. Requiring language in the notice that treats board packets as mandatory would be inconsistent with existing law and guidance from the Office of Information Practices.
2. The County of Maui and many other public bodies no longer rely on a single pre-assembled board packet and instead use real-time online posting to provide timely public access to meeting materials. The measure's prescriptive language would disadvantage these more transparent practices. Further, the measure could create unnecessary administrative burdens to assemble static packets solely to satisfy notice.
3. Requiring notice of where a physical packet may be viewed in person assumes an in-office inspection location and does not reflect the practices of boards that operate remotely or rely primarily on electronic distribution. The measure should be clarified to recognize alternative methods of providing public access to meeting materials.

Thank you for your consideration.