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April 7, 2026

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 8, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2151, SD2, HD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

I **support** this measure to clarify state and local authority during a state or local state of emergency and to allow the Legislature to terminate a state of emergency and county councils to terminate a local state of emergency.

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. This bill correctly clarifies that emergency powers are reserved for sudden, catastrophic events, ensuring that long-term public policy challenges remain within the exclusive province of the legislative process.
2. By allowing a simple majority of a County Council to terminate a local state of emergency, the measure establishes a practical and necessary check on executive authority that reflects the will of the community's direct representatives.
3. Prohibiting the suspension of public records access during an emergency safeguards government accountability and ensures the public's right to information is protected, even during times of crisis.

Thank you for your consideration.

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