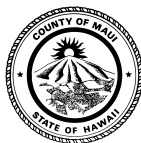


Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

October 2, 2026

Ms. Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
State of Hawaii
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Lopez:

SUBJECT: **FOLLOW-UP TO LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT INTO
ALLEGATIONS CONTAINED IN *LEO CAIRES V.
COUNTY OF MAUI, ET AL.* AND *LUANA MAHI V. MAUI
COUNTY BOARD OF ETHICS, ET AL.*** (GREAT-5(9))

I am writing to follow up on questions posed in our previous correspondence, dated September 9, 2026, regarding the serious public integrity concerns raised in *Leo Caires v. County of Maui, et al.* and *Luana Mahi v. Maui County Board of Ethics, et al.*. A copy of the September 9 letter is attached for your reference.

We understand there may be active, ongoing law enforcement or criminal investigations into the allegations detailed in Mr. Caires's April 2, 2025 settlement demand, Ms. Mahi's July 8, 2026 complaint, and related municipal corruption matters.

While we respect the necessity of investigative confidentiality, we strongly urge your office to act expeditiously to resolve these matters. We request that the Department either take appropriate legal action where warranted or provide explicit public assurance if no evidence of wrongdoing was found.

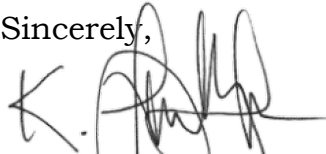
These allegations deserve to be either substantiated or officially cleared without delay. Unresolved claims of this nature undermine public trust and cast a shadow over local governance.

Ms. Anne Lopez
October 2, 2026
Page 2

May I further request you transmit your response to peter.hanano@mauicounty.us and great.committee@mauicounty.us by **October 9, 2026**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number in the subject line.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Peter Hanano at (808) 270-8007, or Maria Leon at (808) 270-7866).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Batangan', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end.

KAUANCE BATANGAN, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee

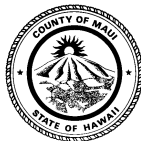
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Attachment

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

September 9, 2026

Ms. Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General
Department of the Attorney General
State of Hawaii
425 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Ms. Lopez:

SUBJECT: **LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT INTO ALLEGATIONS
CONTAINED IN LEO CAIRES V. COUNTY OF MAUI, ET
AL. AND LUANA MAHI V. MAUI COUNTY BOARD OF
ETHICS, ET AL.** (GREAT-5(9))

This correspondence's purpose is to request information on whether your office conducted an investigation into the allegations made by the following former Maui County employees:

1. Leo Caires, Mayor Bissen's former Chief of Staff. In his April 2, 2025, settlement demand, which alleges whistleblower retaliation and wrongful termination, Mr. Caires made several allegations of unlawful acts committed by individuals who were, or are currently, employed by the County of Maui. See attached April 2, 2025, demand letter sent to Corporation Counsel Victoria J. Takayesu from Joseph T. Rosenbaum, Esq., on behalf of Leo Caires.¹
2. Luana Mahi, Mayor Bissen's former Director of Economic Development. Ms. Mahi's legal counsel filed a Complaint on July 8, 2026, alleging financial misappropriation made at the request of the Mayor or his immediate reports. See attached Complaint filed on

¹ The personal and private information contained in this document is restricted from public disclosure under the Hawai'i Uniform Information Practices Act, Section 92F-13(1), Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

July 8, 2026, in *Luana Mahi v. Maui County Board of Ethics, et al.*, 2CCV-26-0000236.

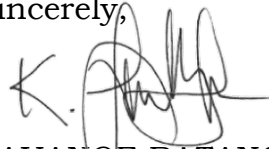
Because the allegations by both Mr. Caires and Ms. Mahi involve County resources and personnel, I am requesting responses to the following questions:

1. Were the allegations by Mr. Caires and Ms. Mahi, as listed above, referred to your office for investigation? If yes, when were these matters referred to your office? Who referred these matters to your office?
2. Have the allegations contained in the April 2, 2025, settlement demand and July 8, 2026, complaint been investigated by your office?
3. Are there any active or ongoing investigations being conducted by your office into Mr. Caires's or Ms. Mahi's allegations against current County employees?
4. If investigations have been conducted against current County employees, have the investigations been closed?
5. Have the individuals currently employed by the County been cleared of any alleged wrongdoing?

May I further request you transmit your response to peter.hanano@mauicounty.us and great.committee@mauicounty.us by **September 16, 2026**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number GREAT-5(9) in the subject line.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Peter Hanano at (808) 270-8007, or Maria Leon at (808) 270-7866).

Sincerely,



KAUANOE BATANGAN, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee