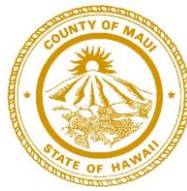


Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



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February 23, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAUI COUNTY MAYOR

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Wednesday, February 24, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308

HB573 HD1 RELATING TO FEDERAL FUNDS

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee on Finance

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **OPPOSITION** to **HB573 HD1**.

This bill requires the joint legislative budget committee, under certain circumstances, to convene and make recommendations to the legislature regarding federal funds. Provides the legislature with the opportunity to convene in special session in accordance to the state constitution to act on the recommendations, otherwise authorizes the governor to expend federal funds pursuant to the governor's emergency powers. Appropriates federal funds for COVID-19 response. Requires funding of certain programs to be paid for from the county share.

The measure in its current form could prove harmful to the counties if they were to receive designated funds and then not be able to handle their counties critical needs due to the need to cover State functions within the County.

There are too many factors that continue to evolve and change as the pandemic continues, such as levels of federal support, medical and public health guidance, mutations of the virus, vaccine supply, and the behaviors of our community members. Any monies appropriated to Maui County should be able to be expended and prioritized to the needs of the County residents, not to State entities within the County.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **OPPOSITION** to **HB573 HD1**.