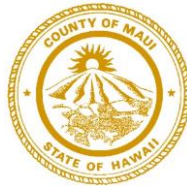


Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 2, 2021

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAUI COUNTY MAYOR

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PANDEMIC AND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS
Thursday, February 4, 2021, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 309

HB573 RELATING TO FEDERAL FUNDS

Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Honorable Stacelynn K.M. Eli, Vice Chair
Honorable members of the Committee on Pandemic and Disaster Preparedness

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

This bill 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**.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 2, 2021

TO: Honorable Linda Ichiyama, Chair
House Committee on Pandemic & Disaster Preparedness

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: February 4, 2021

SUBJECT: **OPPOSITION TO HB 573, RELATING TO FEDERAL FUNDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION to this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate federal funds for COVID-19 response and require funding of certain programs to be paid for from the county share.

I OPPOSE this measure for the following reasons:

1. The measure restricts and reduces COVID funds for counties.
2. It also requires counties to use its COVID funds to fund any amounts appropriated for public education, jails, and hospitals.
3. Finally, the measure increases costs for the counties by requiring them to pay twenty-five percent of the costs for services from the National Guard.

For the foregoing reasons, I OPPOSE this measure.

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