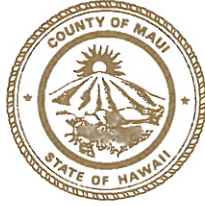


ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



KEITH A. REGAN
MANAGING DIRECTOR

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia

COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

**TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI**

BEFORE THE JOINT COMMITTEE OF
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

AND

THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Monday, January 23, 2017, at 1:30 p.m.
State Capitol Auditorium

RELATING TO INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Honorable Jill Tokuda, Chair
Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Finance Committee

Thank you for this opportunity to come before this joint-committee and present Maui County's priorities for this session. On behalf of my administration and the people of Maui County I want to thank you for your continued dedication, hard work and commitment.

Hawaii Council of Mayors (HCOM)

As Mayor of Maui County, I fully support the three issues identified by HCOM as priorities:

1. *Homelessness* - As the impacts of homelessness on our communities continues to grow there is a need for additional public safety protection. We humbly ask for a fair-share of funding from the state for the health and safety of our communities;

2. *Invasive Species* - The various types of invasive species continue to pose serious problems for our communities. Each of our counties have unique situations (i.e. fire ants, coqui frogs, parakeets and others) and state funding is urgently needed to address this growing concern; and,
3. *Lifeguard Tort Liability* - The existing law is scheduled to sunset, and it is vital to the counties that it is extended.

Specific to Maui County

I understand that this legislative body will be dealing with a nine-figure loss in state revenue due to the lower-than-expected tax collections. It is with this in mind that my administration has whittled-down our priorities to the following:

1. *Kihei High School* - Maui's population continues to grow and South Maui does not have a high school. I humbly ask for continued funding for this ongoing project as it would be devastating to our community if this project were to be suspended;
2. *Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT)* - I support leaving the level of funding to the counties at \$103 million;
3. *Ag Parks on former HC&S land* - Although the plantation era has ended, agriculture on Maui can stay alive with help from the state and county. For our part, we are expanding our Kula Ag Park and would be willing to partner with the state to open up more ag parks around the island; and,
4. *Senior Housing* - The need for senior housing continues to grow and I am respectfully asking for support for this important issue.
5. *Lahaina Bypass* - This project is not about motorist convenience, it is about the safety of our residents and visitors. We have more than 22,000 residents living in West Maui, not including the thousands of tourists who use the only road (which is only two lanes) on a daily basis. Any brushfire or car crash cuts off any access to our one hospital and urgent medical care.

Thank you for your consideration of these important matters.