

LATE

February 25, 2025

RE: SB100

Mahalo for your time and effort to review SB100 as it relates to the Department of Liquor Control qualifying rules for leaders of Non-Profit Organization.

The current regulations require that any proposed board member for a non-profit organization, who has a liquor license, participate in a gauntlet of steps in order to be considered acceptable as outlined by the Department of Liquor Control. The steps include, but not limited to, criminal background checks and requirements to travel to a designated location to be fingerprinted.

As the President & CEO of the Maui Arts & Cultural Center (MACC), I have witnessed first-hand, when presented with the Maui Department of Liquor Control requirements, highly qualified and potentially valuable leader/board member withdraw from consideration. Qualified individuals in their ability to contribute their time, talents and financial resources refuse to subject themselves to such an invasion.

Many have relayed that the rules as they exist, already treat them as if they WERE criminals including a required yet demeaning fingerprinting process. The candidates, often respected business and community members, question the need for the requirements, as they do not relate in any way to their ability to serve as viable board members contributing back to the community.

Maui is the only jurisdiction in the state to require fingerprinting. Maui Liquor Department employees are steadfast in their insistence that this is the required law. The requirement will not be removed locally, thus the need for legislative action.

The Maui Arts & Cultural Center is unique on Maui as it is 501c3 Non-profit Arts & Cultural Center with multiple performance theaters, outdoor amphitheater, art gallery, dance studios, and community-meeting spaces that averages 1700 events a year. There is not an applicable model in the Maui Liquor Department rules that directly apply to the multiplicity of the MACC. Without legislative action as it relates to board members requiring background checks and fingerprinting, there will be no path to move forward.

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Inspiring people through personal and shared experiences of the arts
The MACC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, and Hawai'i's most comprehensive performing & visual arts center

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