

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

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



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

February 13, 2020

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

RECEIVED

2020 FEB 13 PM 3:32

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

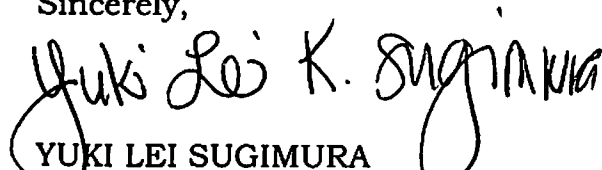
The Honorable Alice L. Lee
Council Chair
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee:

**SUBJECT: SUPPORTING STATE BILLS TO PROTECT THE
SENIOR POPULATION (PAF 20-083)**

May I request the attached proposed resolution, entitled "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT BILLS RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS," be placed on the next Council meeting agenda.

Sincerely,


YUKI LEI SUGIMURA
Councilmember

paf:cdc:20-083b

Enclosure

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 20-142

Resolution

No. _____

URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT BILLS RELATING TO CRIMINAL OFFENSES AGAINST SENIORS

WHEREAS, there is legislation pending before the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii to focus on specific crimes that impact our elderly community, including theft, theft by deception and economic exploitation, assault, and family abuse; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 2334 (2020) and House Bill 1874 (2020), relating to criminal offenses against seniors, are supported by the Legislature's Kupuna Caucus and the 2020 Elderly Crime Initiative – "Fighting Violent and Financial Crimes against Kupuna"; and

WHEREAS, the legislation clarifies across the Hawaii Revised Statutes that the age of a senior is 60 and removes unnecessary confusion during the charging and prosecuting of elder-abuse cases; and

WHEREAS, the legislation makes certain criminal offenses against seniors applicable regardless of the perpetrator's knowledge of the victim's age; and

WHEREAS, the legislation steps up from misdemeanor offenses to felonies certain crimes against seniors, including when an assault causes physical pain, when a theft of more than \$250 occurs, and when a person forges a senior's name on a document or tries to cash a stolen check belonging to a senior; and

WHEREAS, the United States Census Bureau projects that in 2035 older adults will outnumber children for the first time in the nation's history; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, Hawaii will soon be populated with more people over the age of 60 than under the age of 18; and

Resolution No. _____

WHEREAS, 20 percent of seniors have been victimized by financial fraud, and seniors lose at least \$3 billion annually to financial exploitation; and

WHEREAS, the development of the legislation was assisted by the Maui County Elder Justice Team, which is comprised of various entities, including the Office of Aging, the Police Department, the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, and the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the legislation pending before the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii is supported by, among others, the Kokua Council; the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO; the State Department of Human Services; and county prosecutors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it supports the 2020 Elderly Crime Initiative – “Fighting Violent and Financial Crimes Against Kupuna,” and the Legislature’s Kupuna Caucus;
2. That it urges the 30th Legislature of the State of Hawaii to pass Senate Bill 2334 (2020) and House Bill 1874 (2020) to allow Hawaii’s prosecutors’ offices, police departments, and other agencies the ability to better protect the senior population; and
2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Honorable David Ige, Governor, State of Hawaii; the Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker, Hawaii State House of Representatives; the Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi, President, Hawaii State Senate; Maui County’s Delegation to the State Legislature; Don S. Guzman, Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui; and the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui.