

## Testimony Opposing Bill 54

Jenny Sullivan, Employee for P.B. Sullivan Construction  
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Chair and Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm here to speak in strong opposition to Bill 54.

**Bill 54 is not about fairness, employing local people, or getting homes built faster. It is about control.** This bill hands over authority for all County Capital Improvement projects over \$500,000 to the unions—at the expense of local, experienced, merit-based contractors who have built Maui from the ground up.

Councilmember Paltan said yesterday *"this is an effort to ensure local labor, whether union or non-union, gets the work first"*

Bill 54 clearly states "it is to **require responsive bidders be signatories to the community workforce agreement.**" There is no option in that statement.

Bill 54 is going to **eliminate competition, shut out qualified local contractors, and drive-up costs.** Bill 54 will act as a barrier to entry, contradicting the inclusive intent of many public and community-oriented projects.

Most public projects already enforce **Davis-Bacon laws which ensure prevailing wages, safety and local hire requirements.** Therefore, mandating a community workforce agreement is **redundant and only benefiting the unions.**

Section 5 c of the bill states "any qualified bidder can be selected—as long as they agree to the terms of the Community Workforce Agreement." Once again, not an option. Under this bill, if merit-based companies want to work, we must **sign union agreements**

And if we do sign, here's what that really means:

- **Nearly \$37 an hour per employee** will be diverted from our payroll to union pension and health care, plans our workers **will never see** unless they stay in the union typically for **five years or more.**
- **Thousands of dollars** will be taken from workers' paychecks and funneled to union accounts—money that could've gone toward **real benefits they actually use now.**
- Longtime employees—some with merit-based companies for decades—will be forced to **give up their current healthcare and retirement,** delay coverage, and start over in a system they never asked to join.

Yesterday, the Council allocated **\$250,000 for a Project Labor Administrator**—a role that was agreed to exist independently of Bill 54. This position can promote efficiency and economic development without mandating union participation, suggesting Bill 54 is unnecessary.

The foundation of this country was built on **open opportunity and free enterprise**

**Please vote NO on Bill 54.** Thank you.