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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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January 28, 2026

Hon. Tamara Paltin, Chair
Disaster Recovery, International Affairs, and Planning Committee
Maui County Council

Dear Chair Paltin:

SUBJECT: DRIP 9-(7)

Thank you for the opportunity to transmit my opening remarks shared during today's January 28, 2026 committee meeting. Please see below for a copy of the opening remarks:

I do not support anti-immigration policies, nor do I support immigration enforcement actions that create fear, separate families, or undermine civil rights and human dignity. I strongly oppose xenophobia, racial profiling, and the targeting of communities based on where they come from.

With everything going on, and with what we are seeing in Minnesota, people are understandably very concerned. I want to thank all those who have called and emailed to share those concerns.

This issue is personal to me. Members of my own family were interned during World War II, and we have lived with the consequences of government actions rooted in fear and prejudice. That history shapes my commitment to stand with communities who feel vulnerable and to ensure that our County, including our hard-working Police Department, does not contribute to harm or discrimination.

In regards to Bill 92, the public record is clear:

- *At no point have I collaborated with federal agencies on immigration enforcement, circumvented law, or removed public records as has been alleged. Committee documents and testimony all remain accessible through established County channels.*

Received at DRIP meeting on 1/28/26

- *I have not attempted to delay scheduling of Bill 92, nor mislead the public in any way.*
- *As of today, the Maui County Council has not approved the agreement*

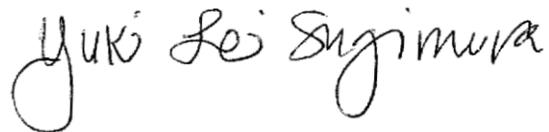
To provide a timeline of Bill 92 and where we currently are:

- *At the October 10, 2025 Council Meeting, Bill 92 was cancelled from the agenda by Chair Lee and referred back to the BFED committee*
- *On October 14, 2025: In light of similar questions being raised with Bill 122, which involved an agreement between MPD and the National Guard, I wrote to Corporation Counsel to request a legal opinion on whether Bill 92 required Council approval. The pertinent issue was whether Bill 92 created a “financial obligation,” thus requiring the Mayor to obtain council approval*
 - *It was important to obtain clarification to ensure that even if the Council disapproved the agreement, that the Mayor could not still move forward if they disagreed with the Council’s actions.*
 - *My intention was to also seek clarity for similar agreements in the future*
 - *In this request, I asked Corporation Counsel to cite controlling law and state a clear conclusion*
- *On November 3, 2025, I received a written opinion back from Deputy Corporation Counsel Thomas Kolbe.*
 - *Mr. Kolbe’s letter stated that the agreement “does not place financial obligations on the County and there does not require Council authorization under Section 2.20.020 of the Maui County Code.*
- *On December 12, 2025, I submitted a request to Deputy Corporation Counsel Kolbe to further clarify if there were any other provisions of the Maui County Charter or Maui County Code beyond Section 2.20 that would require the Council’s action prior to the Administration executing the agreement.*
 - *This letter came after members of Maui Indivisible shared that they disagreed with the November 3rd opinion. I felt it was prudent to request that Corporation Counsel review the agreement again in relation to all relevant sections of the Charter and County Code beyond just Section 2.20.*
- *Last week, on January 20, 2026, I received a response from Deputy Corporation Counsel Kolbe rescinding their November 3rd position and now opining that the agreement does create a potential financial obligation.*

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- *Since receiving the January 20th opinion just last week, I have been working to schedule Bill 92 at an upcoming BFED meeting. February 10th is the most likely meeting date and we will provide public notice once that meeting agenda is finalized.*
- *All of these documents are publicly available. The public will be able to testify once again at our upcoming BFED meeting. Hearing from our community, I am supportive of disapproving Bill 92 and will be making that recommendation moving forward.*
- *I appreciate you scheduling this item Chair Paltin and I appreciate the many community members who have taken the time to contact me and voice their concerns, who have taken the time to learn about our process, and who continue to care about our people.*

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "Y".

YUKI LEI SUGIMURA
Councilmember

DRIP Committee

From: Yukilei Sugimura
Sent: Wednesday, January 28, 2026 1:54 PM
To: DRIP Committee
Subject: DRIP-9(7) Opening Remarks
Attachments: DRIP-9(7) YLS Opening Remarks.pdf

Aloha DRIP Committee:

Please see attached for copy of Councilmember Sugimura's opening remarks.

Thank you,
Office of Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura

Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura
Maui County Council, Upcountry
C: 808.830.0344 | O: 808.270.7939