

# Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee on 2022-08-30 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 08-30-22 09:00

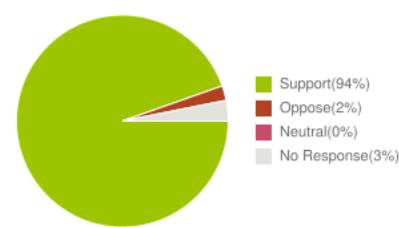
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee on 2022-08-30 9:00 AM	08-30-22 09:00	11	223	211	5	0

### Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



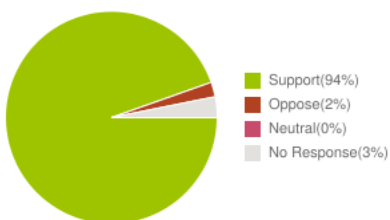
**Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee on 2022-08-30 9:00 AM**  
**08-30-22 09:00**

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	4	4	0	0
GREAT-1(12) Reso 22-178 APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS (RESOLUTION 22-178, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ROGERENE "KALI" ARCE AS DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE) (GREAT-1(12))	14	12	0	0
GREAT-3(2) Reso 22-195 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-195, RELATING TO REMOVAL OF THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT) (GREAT-3(2))	4	4	0	0
GREAT-4(2) Reso 22-200 MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (RESOLUTION 22-200, RELATING TO REMOVAL OF THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT) (GREAT-4(2))	198	189	4	0
GREAT-3(3) Reso 22-196 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-196, RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE) (GREAT-3(3))	1	0	1	0
GREAT-3(4) Reso 22-197 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-197, RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE) (GREAT-3(4))	1	1	0	0
GREAT-4(4) Reso 22-202 MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (RESOLUTION 22-202, RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE) (GREAT-4(4))	1	1	0	0

### Sentiments for All Agenda Items

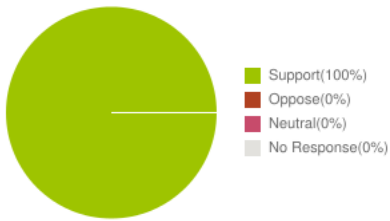
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

#### Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

## Overall Sentiment



### Lea Hennessy

Location:

Submitted At: 9:40am 08-30-22

Aloha Chair and Council Members,

I recently met Kali Arce at a Farmers Listening session on L\_na'i. I support this new position and look forward to see positive changes supporting small farmers and ranchers, developing more opportunities and resources for our outer-island-rural communities on Moloka'i and L\_na'i. Mahalo, Lea

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:30pm 08-29-22

Aloha Chair and Council members,

I strongly support Rogerene "Kali" Arce as Director of Agriculture for Maui County. We are blessed to have a Hawaiian wahine of her experience and understanding with all types of agriculture and conservation/preservation experience to head this important department. I look forward to seeing positive developments and support for small farmers and ranchers and those practicing regenerative agriculture in Maui County.

Please approve her swiftly so she can get to her important work!

Mahalo,

Barbara Barry

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:02pm 08-29-22

Dear Agriculture and Public Trust Committee:

I am Cheryl Corbiell, a resident of Molokai and I support the appointment of Kali Arce as the Director designee for the Maui County Department of Agriculture.

I the support the appointment of Kali Arce as the Director Designee for the newly formed Maui County\_s Department of Agriculture. She will bring valuable experience and knowledge to this new department through her agricultural and conservation expertise.

Kali has worked in managing a small nonprofit and the ability to secure grants. For example she demonstrated her management skills under pressure by stepping up as Acting Executive Director in the unexpected 3 month absence of the Executive Director after only being employed for 9 months.

In her one-year term, I secured \$1.14M in grants which included writing the Legacy Land grant proposals and presenting to BLNR with with the non profit president and the agency was awarded \$1.1M for the partial cost of a potential Mapulehu land purchase. She also secured \$35K from Maui County OED for the non profit's plant nursery infrastructure. Lastly, she secured \$6K from OHA for outreach education for native Hawaiians focusing on Mokio tours and a community open house event.

Kali has also collaborated in my professional capacity as a member of the TNC-Earth Day Planning Committee and the successful Keiki Earth Day program. She developed and conducted these programs with the Earth Day

Committee since 1994 (exluding the pandemic years).

Kali has been lecturing as needed for UH Maui College the last 20 years covering agricultural and Hawaiian Field Biology Courses.

I highly support Kali Arce

Cheryl Corbiell  
PO Box 1582  
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

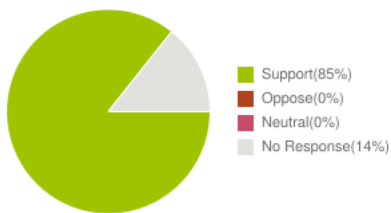
**Scott Crawford**

Location:  
Submitted At: 4:23pm 08-29-22

I support the nomination of Kali Arce to the position of Director of the Department of Agriculture.  
Mahalo,  
Scott Crawford

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-1(12) Reso 22-178 APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS (RESOLUTION 22-178, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF ROGERENE "KALI" ARCE AS DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE) (GREAT-1(12))

Overall Sentiment



**Lauren Nelson**

Location:  
Submitted At: 9:08am 08-30-22

Aloha Council Members,

I am writing to you in support of the appointment of Rogerene "Kali" Arce to the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. Already, Kali Arce has proven herself worthy of the role of Director of Agriculture. I have been consistently impressed with her knowledge, attention to detail, attentiveness and genuine passion to improve Maui County's agricultural future. Kali Arce brings her decades of knowledge, years of schooling and deep community understanding to her work, and we are lucky to have her as a candidate for the Director of Agriculture position. I fully support her appointment, and hope that you join me to support Reso 22-178 to appoint of Rogerene Arce as Director of Agriculture for Maui County.

Mahalo nui,  
Lauren Nelson  
Makawao, HI

**Guest User**

Location:

Attached please find my Testimony Supporting the Appointment of Rogerene Kali Arce as Director of Agriculture.

## Testimony Supporting Approval of Rogerene Kali Arce Appointment

Appointment Position: Director of Agriculture, Department of Agriculture, Maui County

My name is Mr. Alton S. Arakaki, a retired County Extension Agent for the Cooperative Extension Service, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, CTAHR, in the University of Hawaii, Manoa. I served in this position during the period of agriculture transition from pineapple plantation to what we call today a diversified agriculture industry. I retired in December 2018 after serving in this position on Moloka'i for 36 years. I am providing this testimony in support Rogerene "Kali" Arce appointment for the Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. I've known Rogerene Arce, "Kali", for more than quarter of a century.

Today you the Maui County Council is about to sharing similar iconic moments with me. About 29 years ago, in 1993, my colleague, Glenn Teves and I were faced with whether or not we should select a newly college graduate named Rogerene "Kali" Arce to fill a vacant Agriculture Extension Agent position in our Cooperative Extension Service office on Moloka'i. Our concern was whether we were being fair to Kali's professional career to be the first FEMALE AGRICULTURE Extension Agent in University of Hawaii's, at that time 86-year Land Grant history and to be swept into a heavily male dominated agriculture extension agent profession and would be required to work directly with a male dominant farming community. Yes, there were female Extension Agents, but they were all in the Human Resource profession, so Kali would be the first. In the end of we decided that she had the academic background, core values, personal character and strong supportive attitude toward the role of agriculture to the sustainability of Hawaii and towards the farmers in the industry. We selected her for the position. We also decided to provide Kali with all the guidance to help her navigate through the profession and farm production community. And finally, we decided to give her all the rope she wanted to take to develop her own extension program that would successfully address the needs of her farmer clientele. And indeed, she took all the rope given to her and excelled.

Today you too will be embarking into iconic moments. It is an iconic moment that the people of Maui County have given birth to a new Agriculture Department, the first in all Hawaii's County governments. And now you are about to engage another iconic moment in deciding whether Kali to serve as our first Director for the Agriculture Department. What better way than to approve the appointment of Kali that will bring 30 years of excellent experience gained from working in both public and private agriculture institutions to start the new County of Maui, Department of Agriculture. What better way than to give the Department of Agriculture a good start with a female leader that have nurturing leadership style but a "imua", "lets move forward" expectation of herself and every team member around her.

In 1993 she started her agriculture career with a public institution, CTAHR, Cooperative Extension Service. She was hired as an Extension Agent to provide agricultural education for Native Hawaiian Homestead farmers on Moloka'i in all agriculture commodities. A tough job. I won't discuss her accomplishments with the Cooperative Extension Service, something you will find and read in her resume. Instead, I would like to provide you with my experience in the reaction from the Hawaiian Homestead farmers and community she worked with for 17 years when she decided to leave the UH, Cooperative Extension Service, in 2010. Like you, you can measure your success in your work by the response you receive from you constituents. Extension Agents can also measure the degrees of success of their program by keeping close contact with their clientele and receiving feedback from them. When she announced her resignation from her Extension Agent position the reaction from the homestead farmers, teachers, government agriculture agencies and non-profit organizations were all of concerns, regrets and at lost of 17 years of professional agriculture relationship they developed with her. Farmers expressed concerns about losing the agriculture production educational program she developed and the many tailor-made projects she conducted with them on their homestead farms. Teachers expressed regrets that the school will be losing their support for their gardening projects and Kali's youth value-add entrepreneurial project call "Radish Patch Kids", government agencies, most were off-Moloka'i, express regrets and lost of Kali that provided them with contacts and broad professional understanding of the Hawaiian Homestead agriculture community on Molokai. She was well-liked and respected by her homestead farmer clientele. Her professional relationship she developed with her farmers was an indication of her skills in developing, managing, acquiring resources for her educational programs that were meaningful, applicable and met the needs of her farmers. Any concerns about

her being a female in a male dominant profession and agriculture production industry never came up.

More than 1500 years ago the first group of Polynesians set foot in Hawaii. Their voyages weren't just to satisfy their exploratory curiosity, but rather to find new lands to settle and establish a civilization. To satisfy their nutritional and survival needs the carried on their voyaging canoe were propagation material for 24 different plants and pigs, chickens and dogs. The fastest maturing food plant in the group was sweet potato, which under good growing conditions today would take 90 to 120 days to mature. Original settlers would have to plan for this. It is believed that ancient Hawaiians consumed 7-9 pounds of taro or carbohydrate plants per day. That means at peak population on the Hawaiian Islands, they harvested 5.6 to 9 million pounds of taro every day, and produced everything for their food, shelter, clothing and medicinal needs. By the time Captain James Cook arrived on the Islands in 1778, and during the period of the American Revolutionary War with the British, native Hawaiian existing independently in Hawaii for 1200 years, with a well established and sustainable civilization and a population that would almost rival what we have today. Somewhere in the 1200 year of independent existence in Hawaii, ancient Hawaiians were so confident in their sustainable food production and survival system that they found it was not necessary to hold on to the knowledge of long open ocean navigation and voyaging skills that brought them to Hawaii in the first place. That skill and knowledge was lost. Not until 1976 did we re-learned ancient Hawaiian open ocean navigational skills through Hokulea voyages. The challenges we face today, is can we duplicate what the ancient Hawaiians accomplished in sustaining a civilization in Hawaii for the next 1000 years? Will we ever be able to give up necessities of depending on open ocean voyaging to deliver our food, shelter, clothing and medicinal to sustain our lifestyle in paradise in the middle of the Pacific? While we take great pride in our new discoveries and advancement in the sciences and technologies that have contributed to extending our life span and comfort, I would say we would be hard pressed to duplicate what the original settler of our islands accomplished in sustaining a civilization for the next 1000 years by ourselves. But I feel we have no choice but to try. In fact, we are moving closer to Japan on our tectonic ride than we are toward the mainland where get greater majority of our goods to sustain our lifestyle in Hawaii. During the corona virus pandemic, the United States found that it was a national security risk to outsource the production of goods that are necessary to sustain a healthy nation and now initiating big changes in our supply manufacturing chain in our Made in America campaign. We in Hawaii should be well aware of our situation in the middle of the Pacific and feel a sense of great vulnerability in our security.

Maui County has started to meet the challenges ahead of us by creating close to home the Agriculture Department. Your next step is to appoint Rogerene Kali Arce, a native Hawaiian, a Kamehameha High School graduate, a Hawaiian Homesteader on Moloka'i, who has the academic background in sustainable agriculture and will bring to the Department 29 years of agriculture experience from working in both public and private agricultural institutions. She is someone that understands the value of agriculture and role it plays in sustaining health island communities and its importance towards the diversification our overall economy that today heavily dependent on service-based industries. For these reasons I support the appointment of Rogerene Kali Arce to become the first Director of Agriculture in the County of Maui.

Thank you for allowing me to provide you my supportive testimony on behave of Rogerene Kali Arce in her appointment as Director for the County of Maui, Agriculture Department.

Alton Arakaki

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:41pm 08-29-22

Aloha Council Members,

I am writing to voice my support of Rogerene Arce for the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. I have known Kali for many years, and am proud to say I have learned a lot from her. Kali has a very practical way of looking at issues and helping find resolution while removing personal bias. She has a strong background in agriculture, including many various types of production, which I believe will make her a strong balanced representative of the agricultural community overall. Kali has always been a strong advocate for doing what is right and has a strong sense of responsibility for her community and the environment. These are qualities which come through in everything she does. I also believe that as a woman and a mother Kali possesses a view that is shared by so many in agriculture in that not only must we be productive, but we must be responsible

stewards, putting back more than we take and educating the future generations, not just on how to farm, but also how to take care of the earth. For these reasons and many more, I wholeheartedly support Kali as the first appointee for this new position.

Thank you for taking time to review my testimony.

Jill Coombs

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:38pm 08-29-22

Please appoint Kali.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:35pm 08-29-22

Aloha Council Members,

I am writing in support of the appointment of Rogerene "Kali" Arce to the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. As a part of the Molokai community, Kali Arce has always been community minded and agriculture focused. She has worked with a large part of our island's Ag community in her previous roles. She has been such an asset to Sustainable Molokai's Ag Experience Program and done so much for the Molokai agricultural community through her former employment at UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR).

We are so excited to support this nomination and also commend Kali Arce for her efforts on Molokai and beyond. Please support her nomination Kali can begin in this great role for all of Maui County.

Mahalo,

Katy Mokuau,

\_Umeke \_Ai & Climate Change Team, Sustainable Molokai and part of DHHL Ho\_olehua Homestead Mokuau \_ohana

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:07pm 08-29-22

Highly recommend Kali Arce for the position of Director of Agriculture for Maui County. Her expertise in all areas related to farming on a large scale operation to helping establish a backyard operation give her the creditability to lead this office. We have first hand knowledge of her expertise as she helped us 22 years ago establish a 2 acre tropical grove which started with 150 fruiting tropical trees.

Viola and Weldon Wichman

Kuulei's Mahiai

Hoolehua,Hi

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:32pm 08-29-22

Aloha Council Members,

I am writing in support of the appointment of Rogerene "Kali" Arce to the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. I have had the pleasure of working with Kali through Sustainable Molokai's Ag Experience Program, where I learned just how hardworking, professional, and motivated Kali can be. I am also aware of her outstanding work for the Molokai agricultural community through her former employment at UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR). I believe the knowledge, passion, and dedication she will bring to this position will benefit Maui Nui and its various agricultural stakeholders. I hope the Council will support her nomination so Deputy Director Weston Yap and Kali can begin the great work ahead of them.

Mahalo,

Jamie Ronzello  
Food Sovereignty Program Director  
Sustainable Molokai

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:02pm 08-29-22

My name is Piilani Augustiro and I am in support of the appointment of Rogerene "Kali" Arce to the position of The Director of the Maui County Dept of Agriculture. I have known Kali for over 10 years, and have worked with her for about 5. I am excited for her and what she is able to bring such as her knowledge in ag, and in natural resources and conservation practices. In regards to natural resources she was instrumental with the installation of agroforestry planting of 11 miles of native Hawaiian trees that increased plant biodiversity that also attracted native pollinators such as the Koa Butterfly. This project won an international award. In conservation practices, she designed and installed a one acre native pollinator habitat that had walking paths and educational signages. This also served as an outdoor classroom for STEM activities. Kali has served in various community groups and organizations, that I feel has helped mold her to be great in her future position as Director, and I know that her passion will also help her do great things within our community as well as our County. Thank you

**Debra Kelly**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:16am 08-29-22

I failed to leave my name on my testimony.

I have worked with Kali for more than 25 years as a member of my board of directors with the Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District, as a partner in projects with UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), as Executive Deputy Director with Molokai Land Trust, a lecturer with UH Maui College - Molokai, and just within our island community. Kali is reliable, knowledgeable, trustworthy, hardworking, friendly, independent and always strives to find solutions. She cooperate well within a team setting and is a leader when called upon. I firmly believe that Kali will fit perfectly in this position to promote the management of an agricultural system that addresses Maui County needs.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:05am 08-29-22

I have worked with Kali for more than 25 years as a member of my board of directors with the Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District, as a partner in projects with UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), as Executive Deputy Director with Molokai Land Trust, a lecturer with UH Maui College - Molokai, and just within our island community. Kali is reliable, knowledgeable, trustworthy, hardworking, friendly, independent and always strives to find solutions. She cooperate well within a team setting and is a leader when called upon. I firmly believe that Kali will fit perfectly in this position to promote the management of an agricultural system that addresses Maui County needs.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:47am 08-29-22

I am in support of Kali Arce to the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. I have worked with Kali for over 10 years in the Ag Sector and as a Board of Director for Hikiola Cooperative. I support her nomination.

Denise Kawano

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:54am 08-29-22

I have known and worked with Kali for well over a decade in the agricultural sector. As a Molokai Farmer, and also as President of the Molokai Farm Bureau, I offer support to Kali Arce and her new role with the Maui County



Department of Agriculture.

Nathaniel Oswald

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:40am 08-29-22

I strongly support the appointment of Kali Are as Director of Agriculture.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:35am 08-26-22

Aloha Council Members,

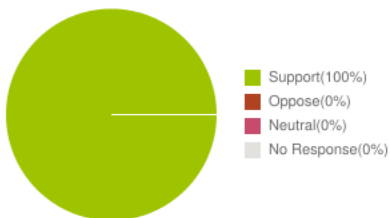
I am writing in support of the appointment of Rogerene "Kali" Arce to the position of Director of the Maui County Department of Agriculture. Kali has been taking the time to meet with various agricultural stakeholders to learn about the issues in the ag sector. She has shown an eagerness to help, and she seems very genuine and professional. Her and Deputy Director Weston Yap have really hit the ground running in their new positions and I think they will do a great job leading the Department as it gets up and going. They seem to really balance out each other's strengths and so far all of the folks that I have spoken to about them seem very pleased, after meeting them. I think Kali has the vision to see the potential in growing agricultural opportunities here in Maui County and the drive to make them happen. I hope the Council will support her nomination so they can get started on some very important work for our community.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Karaca

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-3(2) Reso 22-195 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-195, RELATING TO REMOVAL OF THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT) (GREAT-3(2))

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:45pm 08-29-22

Agree

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:57pm 08-29-22

Officers who meet the required years of employment should be able to retire regardless of their age. Forcing someone to stay to simply reach an arbitrary age to retire is silly. High stress, high impact jobs such as police, fire fighters, paramedics, etc cause significant mental and health impacts on these employees. We should not be

forcing them to work longer and erode their health down simply to reach a certain age. Let them work their years and then leave without penalty.

**George Kahoohanohano**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:46am 08-29-22

Being a retired Police Officer, I know the problems that can happen when an officer is working day after day with the pressure of doing your job and dealing with the worst side of the community that we have. This pressure is really unknown to most people, but there is a reason that we have a high rate of police Officers leaving the job. With the shorten time for retirement, I see a opportunity for the County of Maui to keep officers within the department as they can now see that there is a chance to serve the community and then making a chance for them to benefit being in the community that they worked and sacrificed for during their careers for their retirement. In Keeping the age and time requirements will continue to have the officers look at something better for their families and themselves.

**Guest User**

Location:

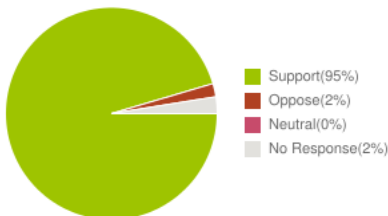
Submitted At: 8:57am 08-29-22

Aloha,

My name is Nicholas Krau and as a resident of Waikapu, Maui County Police Officer and the Chairman of the Maui Chapter of the State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO) I am in full SUPPORT of Resolution 22-195. I am not directly impacted by this resolution as I am grandfathered on the "old" retirement system. However, I can tell you first hand that we are loosing out on the opportunity to hire great local police applicants because of the eroding police officer benefits. We all know that police officers are not the most well liked professionals, but I think we can all agree that the profession is a very necessary one.

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-4(2) Reso 22-200 MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (RESOLUTION 22-200, RELATING TO REMOVAL OF THE MINIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR POLICE OFFICER RETIREMENT) (GREAT-4(2))

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:40pm 08-30-22

Fully support this bill!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:22pm 08-30-22

I fully support this bill.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:11pm 08-30-22

I fully support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:58am 08-30-22

I am in support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:56am 08-30-22

I fully support this measure. As it currently stands police departments all across Hawaii and especially Maui are experiencing challenges with hiring and retention. A large driving force behind these problems is that there a much better compensation, retirement, and benefit plans being offered by other mainland departments. Most mainland departments are on a 25 year retirement system, offer higher wages relative to the cost of living, and some are even offering upwards of \$20,000 bonuses for certified officers to lateral to their department. The fact is that departments all across the nation are fighting for quality candidates. In order for Hawaii to continue to have a quality and staffed police force, we need to start competing with the benefits being offered by other mainland departments. If we fail to do that, officers will feel less supported by their community and government, and will unfortunately leave to departments that offer better support systems and benefits for their officers. We are fighting for every last officer we can get and right now we're losing. We too may reach a point where 9-1-1 calls go unanswered because we don't have the staffing numbers to uphold adequate response times. Investing in a better retirement system will not only incentivize current officers to stay in Hawaii and continue to serve our great community, but it will encourage others to become the next generation of officers that we so desperately need. We need this bill to pass in order for Hawaii to remain the paradise so many of us know it be. Please save our officers in order to save our community.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:46am 08-30-22

I'm in support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:44am 08-30-22

I am in full support of this bill!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:28am 08-30-22

I'm in support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:20am 08-30-22

I am in support of this bill.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:00am 08-30-22

I am in full support of this change!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:56am 08-30-22

## Support

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:49am 08-30-22

This would be a step in the right direction with the final goal being full retirement at 25 years of service with no age requirement.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:39am 08-30-22

Not only does this support the counties, but it supports the policemen! Currently officers have to reach the rank of captain and most likely major to create a livable pension by the time they retire... we are losing officers by the dozens thought each county for mainland recruitment. Officers much like myself have considered leaving due to increased cost of living and the department not increasing wages to compete with mainland counterparts and out rising cost of living within the islands, we are losing officers to mainland bonuses of 20-40k and a better retirement. If we do not bring back a better retirement system for us officers we will continue to lose officers and lack the recruitment numbers needed to fill out already depleted numbers. Let's give the officers something to work towards, add overtime too, and retire with 25 years instead.

Please take this into consideration on all accounts.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:25am 08-30-22

We need to recruit new officers and retain current officers. The current retirement plan is sub-par and we are losing officers to mainland agencies that are offering \$25k-\$40k sign on bonuses along with much better retirement plans, as well as a lower cost of living. We are nearing a point when we are going to lose more officers than we are hiring. Please return officers pension and retirement plans to a 25 year service commitment, where overtime counts towards your retirement, and spouses have benefits. If not, expect to see more officers leave and less officers attracted to service in the state of Hawaii. Police service is hard enough as it is, please give officers something to look forward to at the end of their service to the people of Hawaii. If you want driven, hard working men and women serving our community, give them something that shows that when they reach the finish line they have something to show for it. If not, expect a severe shortage of men and women that are willing to serve their community and risk their lives for scraps from the table for themselves and their families. Missed birthdays, missed Christmases, missed time with their families, missed good-nights, and missed special moments are things officers can never get back. It's high time we show officers that their community and the government appreciates and respects the sacrifice that first responders make when they sign up for this job. Being an officer, it's a calling...but that call has to be met with something for the officers and their families to look back on and know that they gave their all, and their community and government leaders will make sure that in the end, everyone wins.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:16am 08-30-22

I fully agree, doing our line of work for 30 years is really hard thing to do. It's toxic and hard on families

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:08am 08-30-22

I am a police officer and was hired in 2014, which means I have to work 30 years of service before I can retire. I feel that 30 years is a long time and it should be changed back down to 25 years. I will make 30 years of service when I am 55 years old and the age shouldn't matter for when you can retire, it should be the years because that isn't fair for people who were hired at 21 compared to if you wait to be hired when you're 30. We need more police officers and this requirement isn't helping new people want to become a police officer.

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:07am 08-30-22

You don't want 70 year old police officers running around on the streets. Police officers job is a young man and young woman's sport

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:59am 08-30-22

I believe this is a great change and should be adopted to all islands.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:36am 08-30-22

The 25 year service plan should never have been taken away. Whoever made this decision or whoever caused this decision to me made should be fired. Everyone working now needs to suffer for 30 years or more because of this decision. Being forced to work beyond 25 years as a police officer, especially if you're a patrolmen is nuts. If this service plan is not changed departments across the state will never meet recruitment needs. 10 years and out will be the new goal.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:25am 08-30-22

Police work is the hardest job

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:49am 08-30-22

THIS WOULD BE A GREAT THING TO RETAIN AND ATTRACT NEW OFFICERS. ANYTHING THAT YOU CAN DO TO ACCOMPLISH THAT, IS A WIN FOR ALL.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:41am 08-30-22

Statistics shows that people in high stressful jobs is very taxing on their physical and mental health Some don't live to long after retirement. Plus not everyone enters the department at the age of 21.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:40am 08-30-22

I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:26am 08-30-22

With as much as Chief Pelletier is doing to get rid of officers this is much needed for retention and recruiting.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:19am 08-30-22

Police work is exhausting and mentally caustic. I believe the mental health of police officers is never addressed during their career and having them forced to work passed 25 years is dangerous for both officers and the community. Removing the age restriction JUST MAKES SENSE ON EVERY LEVEL.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:10am 08-30-22

The toll this profession takes on the physical and mental well-being of an individual is like no other so I fully support this change.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:57am 08-30-22

I support this change. It is an important step to assist with recruitment and retention of younger officers. This career is mentally, physically and emotionally taxing.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:32am 08-30-22

I fully support this change

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:23am 08-30-22

I think that the 25 years with the age of 55 years old should be reinstated at now days the Officer's have to deal with more these days then before.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:20am 08-30-22

Please remove the minimum age requirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:34am 08-30-22

I support this resolution. As a recently retired Maui LEO, I can attest to the toll this profession takes on the physical and mental well-being of an individual and their family. It's a stressful and many times unappreciated job. Many times a broad brush is used to paint all LE officers by the unlawful actions of an officer. I believe if the age requirement for retirement is removed, this will make the LE profession a little more attractive to those who want to serve their communities.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:05am 08-30-22

I strongly support this proposal. It is a great incentive that would definitely help with recruitment. This career is one of the most physically and mentally demanding ones out there; officers shouldn't have an age requirement to retire. The current and future officers deserve better.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:40am 08-30-22

Policing is unlike any other profession. It takes it tole on those who step up. Also it is just not safe to have older cops on the road dealing with young offenders. The average police officer only lives 10 years past retirement. Let them retire in price.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:13am 08-30-22

Removing the minimum age requirement for retirement would make this career more appealing to men and women aged 21-29. We need more officers, and this will help.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 12:12am 08-30-22

Although this does not affect me. I support the change for my fellow Officers who this does affect.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:55pm 08-29-22

I support this change! I'm only hoping the same can be done across all counties.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:19pm 08-29-22

Please consider the proposal change which will help with recruitment and retention. Mahalo

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:33pm 08-29-22

Support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:14pm 08-29-22

Please remove the requirements on age for police officer retirement. Support this agenda item.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:45pm 08-29-22

I am greatly for this bill. I feel all Officers should be on the 25 year retirement

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:45pm 08-29-22

I strongly SUPPORT the proposed resolution to amend the retirement age and service year requirements for Police Officers. I am currently a Police Sergeant with MPD with 27 years of service. The proposed resolution will help with keeping officers on Maui and will definitely help with recruitment to serve the County of Maui and help end the shortage of Police officers. If you care about the community of Maui County and the citizens pass the proposed resolution.

A lot of Departments on the mainland have 20 years of service for retirement. For 30 years of service to retirement for Police Officers is too long. The stresses on officers and their families, liability, and physical strain on the job 30 years is too long. Do what is right and please pass the proposed amendment.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:40pm 08-29-22

I SUPPORT THIS CHANGE!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:31pm 08-29-22

Respectfully support the removal of the minimum retirement age requirements. Not only would this show our support for officers working today but also we need to bring back any incentive we can offer in order to make a dent in the dire recruitment shortage of police officers for the future.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:28pm 08-29-22

Strongly support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:22pm 08-29-22

I strongly oppose the removal of being able to retire @ the age of 55 without 25 yrs of service. Being a police officer at any age pass 55 or older is physically challenging and we should be able to choose to retire even without 25yrs of service. Exposing ourselves to the normal volatile conditions involving people 20 to 30 years younger than ourselves, pushing our body to pass our own physical limits and beyond exhaustion wears and tears on us as Police officers especially pass the age of 55. If I could start life again, I would still choose to be a Police officer. I love my community, I love knowing that I've made a difference and helped families, but I want others to know and to be heard on how physically, mentally draining & stressful this career can day after day, year after year especially at or after the age of 55. I should be able to retire if I choose to at 55yrs of age without 25 yrs of service if I know it time my time.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:20pm 08-29-22

Dear Mayor and County Councilmembers,

I would like to write in SUPPORT of the proposed resolution to amend the retirement age and service year requirements for Police Officers. I am currently a Police Officer with the Maui Police Department and was hired prior to 2012. Though this proposed resolution will not affect me, I am still in strong SUPPORT for this amendment. There currently exists two groups within the Maui Police Department (MPD). Those on the old retirement, with 25 years or age 55 and those on the new retirement with 30 years or age 60. This creates somewhat of a resentment amongst some officers who must work side by side with officers, and yet receive a lesser retirement. The "old" group works 25 years and get 2.5% per year of service of their average final compensation (or what is known as "high three"). The "new" group works 30 years and gets 2% of their 5 years base salary rate. Therefore, the old group gets 62.5% at minimum for 25 years, and the new group gets 60% minimum on a lower final compensation amount for 30 years of service. They must work 5 years longer to receive less percentage of a retirement. Most officers understand this difference and have already expressed a desire to leave if this is not changed in the future.

Please consider passing this new amendment to restore equality in retirement amongst MPD officers and to help protect and retain officers currently working for MPD.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:12pm 08-29-22

I am in support of removing the age requirement for police officer. We also need to do more to support and keep them here, this is a good start, but more needs to be done. Thank you

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:53pm 08-29-22

STRONGLY SUPPORT

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:49pm 08-29-22

I fully support the removal of the minimum age requirement for retirement. With the cost of living and housing on Maui, it's already hard enough to recruit and retain qualified officers to keep us safe from the ever increasing crime on the island. If we wish to be able to compete for qualified men and women to be police officers with



departments on the mainland that pay more and have a lower cost of living, we need to start by removing the minimum age requirement for retirement for officers, and putting it at or below the number of years required by those departments on the mainland. Additionally, to ask someone to work under the conditions that are required for police work for 30 years is too much. The physical training, long hours, lack of sleep, shift work, stress, diet, sitting, exposure to elements and other hazards, and generally unhealthy lifestyle that officers are subjected to, substantially shortens the lives of police officers. Requiring the men and women who knowingly subject themselves to the dangers of police work, to do it for 30 years, is a disservice to the officers, and the community that they keep safe.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:20pm 08-29-22

In most states a police officer is eligible to retire after 20 years of service. I strongly support changing our retirement eligibility back to 25 years.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:17pm 08-29-22

I strongly support the removal of the age requirement, in an effort to keep officers on the job. I also suggest they bring back the 25 years from 30, and medical for the spouse, to help with recruiting.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:06pm 08-29-22

I oppose this removal

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:57pm 08-29-22

Support this \_

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:55pm 08-29-22

I support in the removal of the minimum age requirement for Police Officer retirement. Maui Police Department is trying to recruit officers and to retire after 25 years of service will help recruit officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:44pm 08-29-22

I am in favor of a 25 year pension

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:41pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution as a way of helping to keep and recruit quality officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:34pm 08-29-22

I strongly support our hardworking police officers in being able to retire after their 25 years of service. They deserve this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:31pm 08-29-22

I agree that our police officers has the right to retire early. Because their job is very demanding and stressful.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:24pm 08-29-22

I strongly support the change back to working 25 years as a current officer myself. Being a police officer, working long hours, pushing my body to physical exhaustion and increased deterioration it is not easy to be in this field. I love what I do, but I also want to be heard on how physically and mentally taxing this career can be. With such a high turnover rate and new officers coming in then leaving for the mainland it makes it more of a challenge to work in an already understaffed line of work.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:20pm 08-29-22

I would like to support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:19pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:16pm 08-29-22

All shopo members and their families need the years of service back down to 25 at a minimum. The stress and ware and tare on our minds and bodies add up after decades of service. Mahalo.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:15pm 08-29-22

25 years is plenty of time feeling stressed always been on alert protecting their community.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:14pm 08-29-22

I support 25 years is long enough. An officer takes a lot of stress daily. 25 years is long enough.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:12pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this change. It would help with the recruiting of young officers and to help retain them from leaving to mainland departments that requires only 20 - 25 years. I had multiple recruit classmates that left the department to a mainland department due mostly to retirement benefits.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:11pm 08-29-22

Our Police deserve to retire early because of the stress they go through on daily bases.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:08pm 08-29-22

Working as a police Officer is extremely stressful and difficult for many older officers due to natural physical deterioration, as well as the fact that there are always young men and women stepping into the criminal role yet

officers age.

There are numerous documented health risks with the profession if an officer puts in their 25 years of service and feels compelled to leave due to physical or psychological damage, they should be afforded the opportunity to retire and hopefully be able to enjoy good health in retirement. 25 years of service as a police officer is very commendable. Requiring an age be met also can be a deterrent when attempting to attract candidates for the field of work.

Police departments nation wide are struggling to acquire qualified individuals, the State and counties need to make the retirement package better to attract qualified candidates.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:02pm 08-29-22

Those men and women who protects my family dearly deserves to retire after 25 years of service regardless of their ages. 25 years is a bit too long for police officers before retiring. They have to sacrifice and endure a lot of bad approaches from a lot of bad people. 20 years of solving crimes and enduring negative lifestyles should be the maximum retirement for our officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:48pm 08-29-22

I support this decision because I am one of those employees who got in at a young age and will be affected by the poor decision of our predecessors.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:48pm 08-29-22

They put in their time! I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:47pm 08-29-22

It was a terrible idea to change the retirement in the first place. Recruiting and retention has suffered ever since. We are in a staffing emergency and something has to be done soon. This would be a start. There are many departments in the country requiring only 20 years of service for retirement and offering higher pay. We are competing with all of these departments for personnel. This change would not affect me as I am in the old system but I would like to see this changed for the new officers as they deserve it. Historically law enforcement has careers with early retirement 20-25 years because the life expectancy of police officers are significantly less than the average lifespan of civilians. There are many studies available to confirm this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:43pm 08-29-22

I fully support this measure. Without this you will not get qualified people to be public servants

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:40pm 08-29-22

I suppose this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:29pm 08-29-22

I support 25 and out and enjoy the freedom to continue to serve beyond, if time will allow it.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:29pm 08-29-22

I am in support of this resolution. It will help with recruitment and retention. Reinstate the 25 years of service for retirement. Nobody should be chasing after criminals at age 60. Im 48 years old and uhh...ask me if i can still run fast.

Thank you,

Tadd Makaiwi

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:22pm 08-29-22

The years should be reduced to 20

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:22pm 08-29-22

A day in the life of a Police Officer can be taxing. We are grateful to serve and protect the community and that is what we signed up for. We also take great pride in making our families a priority. Although we love and appreciate our profession this is a very high stress job. Knowing that we need to serve 30 years in the Police Department can be overwhelming to think about. We would be grateful for the opportunity to have a choice in the amount of years that we serve. Thank you for everyone's time and we will continue to serve our community proudly.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:19pm 08-29-22

How about dropping the years of service to 20 years. I'm sure that'll help in recruitment and officer retainment.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:19pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:17pm 08-29-22

Please remove the minimum age requirement for retirement, and reinstate the 25 years of service for retirement. I believe this will help with retaining Officers in the future.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:15pm 08-29-22

I am in support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:14pm 08-29-22

I am in support of the change for years of service to 25. Our profession is very unique. Everyday we do our best to serve and protect the community however, it places stress on not only our health, but our family life as well. I feel that the change in years of service could also help with staffing numbers as well.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:14pm 08-29-22

I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:12pm 08-29-22

This will have a positive impact for police officers in a Hawaii. I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:11pm 08-29-22

As a Waikapu resident and Maui Police Officer I strongly support this Resolution. I am grateful for being trusted with the honor and privilege of serving the greatest community in our country. I am very appreciative of Councilwoman Paltin who introduced this Resolution on behalf of our police officers and community. Removing the age requirement from the police officer retirement system will help police officer recruitment and ensure our community is getting the best and most qualified applicants to serve Maui County. This is a great first step for improving public safety in our entire state and I am very proud of our Maui County Council and Community for leading this effort. I am on the "old" retirement system that also does not have an age requirement, so this change would not directly impact my retirement. My support for this Resolution is so that the people of Maui County may have a fully staffed police department and the police service they deserve.

Respectfully,

Nicholas Krau  
Waikapu, Maui

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:09pm 08-29-22

May help retain officers from moving to other places.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:06pm 08-29-22

25 years in a high stress field is already long enough. Forcing that beyond is not sustainable to bring in newer officers

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:59pm 08-29-22

Let them die their 25 - retire to enjoy retirement and make way for young healthy officers

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:58pm 08-29-22

I support 25 years and out. 30 years is too long for the amount of stress they have on a daily basis

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:58pm 08-29-22

I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:46pm 08-29-22

Based on the stress of the job and traumatic situations Police encounter regularly the amount of years served

should be brought down. Fully support!!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:45pm 08-29-22

I am strongly suggesting this resolution, this profession is a lot different than sitting behind a desk for just 8 hours a day and wondering what's for lunch. Dealing with all the negative things and resolving them takes a toll on the human body, mind and soul. Please have this changed for the greater good for the men and women who put their lives on the line every day. These are the people who may one day save your life or someone you love.

ALOHA

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:44pm 08-29-22

We need this for our officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:35pm 08-29-22

This is a very important resolution to not only help the current Officers get back to the 25 year retirement option but also helpful with bringing in new recruits. Full support!!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:33pm 08-29-22

I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:32pm 08-29-22

25 & Out!! NO age requirement!!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:31pm 08-29-22

This will assist with recruiting and retaining current officers from leaving for mainland departments that have better retirement packages.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:29pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution. This will help with retention and recruiting.

**Lonnie Kaai**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:29pm 08-29-22

Return the age of retirement for police officers to 25 years of service.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:28pm 08-29-22

I absolutely support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:22pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution as we need to do everything in our power to help with recruitment and retention of our police officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:22pm 08-29-22

To hear that Officer generally live about 7.8 years after retirement is very concerning. After working hard doing my duty for society, I hope to enjoy a long retirement with my family. I would agree with retiring after 25 years opposed to 30 years as it express in the bill that this will help reduce negative health factors.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:18pm 08-29-22

I'm in support of this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:16pm 08-29-22

I support this!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:15pm 08-29-22

This will go a long way im retention and recruitment of new officers state wide. I support any action that would bring us back to a 25 year system.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:11pm 08-29-22

I strongly support the change back to 25 years. I've been employed by the Maui Police Department for more then 20 years now and for officers that are hired after 2012 to have to work 30 years instead of 25 is very heart breaking. We all know being a police officer is one of the most stressful jobs out there and studies have shown nation wide that most officers don't live far to long after retirement and this was shown with 20 and 25 year plans. For an officer to have to work 30 years to be eligible for retirement has to change. From what I've seen ever since the Department adopted the 30 year plan it has been much harder to retain police officers in the County of Maui as the plans in the mainland offer better retirement of 20-25 years. What person wants to work and extra 5-10 years now when they can move to the mainland and retire much earlier then in Hawaii. I think this change alone will help bring in more officers and help retain them from leaving to other outside agencies with better options. We need to keep Hawaii safe and part of that solution is with police officers working in our neighborhoods. And in order to do that we need to bring our recruitment up and this is one way to do it is by changing our retirement back to a better retirement age that will benefit the officer, his/her family, the department, and the people of Hawaii where they will have this officer working their community instead of possibly leaving to work somewhere else with a better plan.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:10pm 08-29-22

I strongly support the resolution to remove the minimum age requirement for police officer retirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:09pm 08-29-22

Who ever agreed to the current retirement plan sold out the future police officers. They didn't care because it didn't affect them. I would say 20 year retirement system is 'best' but 25 years is 'good.' Let's change politicians to

1 term and go get a real job too.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:09pm 08-29-22

Who wouldn't support a better retirement plan.. obvious choice

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:09pm 08-29-22

I support the removal of age requirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:07pm 08-29-22

This change is definitely needed! One of the most demanding jobs mentally and physically. God knows people don't take this job to get rich so at least give LEO's a better retirement plan. Support 100%

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:07pm 08-29-22

Support this change

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:06pm 08-29-22

Support to the removal of minimum age requirement for retirement

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:06pm 08-29-22

Aloha, I am a Police Officer with the Maui Police Department. I have entered the department after the new retirement was already in affect. I later understood later on through my 7 years within the department that 30 years is a lot and with less retirement benefits or pay than members with the old retirement plan.

I feel that it is unfair only that Policing in this day an age is harder. People don't respect Police Officers as they use to in the past. We are being scrutinized on many things not even involving Officers here in Hawaii but the perspective of Officers in general. Crime and emergencies are up and rising and we are short handed.

I have worked countless holdovers and call backs including on my days off to support the department. And taking time away from my family. I feel that the retirement we have is not worth the wait. The retention for Officers is diminishing when the help is needed. I could go on and on.

I hope this letter finds you well, Mahalo for your time.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:02pm 08-29-22

Support 110%

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:00pm 08-29-22



There are many great departments throughout the United States that have 20 and 25 year retirement plans. We have list several great officers to Washington State due to their 20 tear retirement plan. We can't compete with our current plan. Our staffing levels are at a crisis with no end in sight. We may get to hire a few good officers. However, I personally know of 3 officers that are only staying 2 years and then transferring as a lateral hire to the main land where they can work less years and get a better retirement plan. This is a new trend and will not be stopping any time soon. The only way to combat this crisis is to offer a better retirement plan. We must RECRUIT and RETAIN. That is the ONLY logical way forward. We MUST be competitive with other departments.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:59pm 08-29-22

I support Resolution 22-200

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:59pm 08-29-22

This would encourage younger persons to apply to law enforcement as well as increase moral for Officers who joined their respective departments at a a young age.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:59pm 08-29-22

I strongly support it.

**Claire Carroll**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:58pm 08-29-22

I strongly support Resolution 22-200.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:58pm 08-29-22

100% support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:55pm 08-29-22

25 years is enough without the age restriction.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:55pm 08-29-22

Fix it

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-29-22

I strongly support Resolution 22-200.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-29-22

I totally support it....

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-29-22

I'm a current MPD sergeant. I was hired in 2014, after the age requirement and time in service for retirement was changed. I personally know several officers who have left MPD due to our retirement restrictions. I strongly believe that lowering the age for retirement is needed. We also should consider changing time in service to 25 years. Currently, a police officer would need to serve 30 years to get max retirement benefits. Officers hired after the retirement changes in 2012 miss out on many benefits. The old contract allowed retiring officers to count the average of their top 3 years of service (including overtime). Current contract calculates the average of their top 5 years of service (excluding overtime). Also, old contract allowed officers spouse to be included in health care plan after retirement. Current contract doesn't include spouse. We need to make changes to our retirement or risk losing good officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-29-22

I support the retirement age going back to 25 years. Most professions don't require this long even for desk jobs. We have a grueling profession, which is currently dying. We need to retain officers and get quality applicants. This will for sure stop the bleed of officers leaving and hopefully acquire new officers with other benefits.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 08-29-22

If someone works 25 years, they should not be penalized just because they're not 55 and should enjoy the same retirement benefits as someone 55 or older. They've done the same work for the same amount of years, compensate appropriately without penalties.

Support 100%.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:51pm 08-29-22

There should not be a minimum age requirement. If an officer dedicates 25 years of his life to the safety and well being of his community, it shouldn't matter how old he is when he fulfills his 25yr commitment.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:51pm 08-29-22

The everyday stresses and demands of being a police officer takes a toll on one's mental and physical health. Retirement is well-earned after 25 years of service. Age should not be part of the equation and this criteria should never have been changed. Hawaii's law makers are strongly urged to support a 25 year retirement with no age requirement for police officers. Thank you.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:51pm 08-29-22

I strongly support the removal of minimum age

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:50pm 08-29-22

I Support this resolution to remove minimum age, we are losing officers at a tremendous rate. Better incentives are the only thing that's going to attract new officers to this profession!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:50pm 08-29-22

Being a police officer in this day and age is hard enough as it is without the added stress of long term retirement. 25 years is 5 years too long as most mainland departments (with way lower costs of living) have 20 year retirements and retain their officers much much better. Look at all the great officers that have already left because of the ridiculous contracts that benefitted only the top tier and old timers. While i am heavily in favor of a shorter retirement period, watch how many more leave before this ever becomes a reality.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 08-29-22

Full support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 08-29-22

We need this for retention

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 08-29-22

I support this legislation as we cannot compete with other Departments nation wide when the years of service are 10 years higher than anywhere. We know the cost of living won't change so we need something to help out already critically depleted ranks.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:49pm 08-29-22

I support this. They have kept us safe for 25 years and should be able to retire when that has been achieved. If they want to.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:48pm 08-29-22

I strongly support!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:48pm 08-29-22

This would definitely help with the recruitment and retention issue.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:48pm 08-29-22

I support removing the age requirement and returning the retirement back to 25 years

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:47pm 08-29-22

Support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:45pm 08-29-22

I support this

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:45pm 08-29-22

I support removing minimal age requirement for retirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:45pm 08-29-22

I am in full support of this. Hawaii needs to do something about the current pension in order to be appealing to both in state and out of state applicants. This is a step in the right direction and is necessary in order to begin the process of recruiting people and filling the hundreds of vacancies each department has. Our job as Police Officers is to protect each and every one of you day in and day out, putting our lives on the line every single day. It's time do your jobs and protect the Officers by removing the age requirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:44pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this legislation as this can be a great tool for recruitment and retention for Officers who otherwise would leaving for depts that currently have this in place.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:44pm 08-29-22

I nation wide crises is amongst us to recruit and retain Peace Officers. If we do not provide better incentives quickly, our State, Counties, and communities will deal w more than just long lines at the airport. A little bit of research about the rise in crime, should help support this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:42pm 08-29-22

25 years of service is admirable in any profession and exceedingly commendable as a first responder. With the mental and physical toll it takes on one's body, I believe there should not be a minimum age limit to reach retirement and 25 years of service is more than to ask for an officer to retire with benefits.

Honestly if the job was rewarding and enjoyable you wouldn't have to worry about police officers wanting to retire "early".. the very fact that this issue is up for decision proves that there is something wrong with the system.

Do you honestly believe that an officer or any one in any profession can work for 26 years and leave with no benefits.

Yes, thank you for your service but there's the door if you can't stay for 30 years or aren't 55 years old.

25 years is more time than most criminals get for class A felonies and they still cost tax payers more than an officer who actually works for his benefits..

Think about it...

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:42pm 08-29-22

30 years is ridiculous in this profession

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:41pm 08-29-22

I support removing minimum age requirement to retire.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:41pm 08-29-22

Support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:40pm 08-29-22

At least 25 years. Other departments are at 20 years.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:40pm 08-29-22

Aloha,

I strongly support this proposal. I am one of the officers affected by this as my class was the first one to have the 30 year retirement. I think this has multiple benefits, including competitive recruitment and retention. I planned on leaving at 55 anyways with 28 years of service. I don't think people understand how much this job affects our health and well being. 25 years is definitely long enough.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 08-29-22

Strongly support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 08-29-22

Support. 25 years of service no matter the age to retire.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 08-29-22

I support it

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 08-29-22

I support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 08-29-22

I strongly support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:38pm 08-29-22

Nobody wants to be a police officer for 3 decades just to earn a retirement. I would suggest the 25 years and/or age. I would also suggest giving health care coverage to spouses and including overtime in their "highest paid years" whether it be 3 or 5. I don't think it's fair that I DOUBLED my income last year working so much overtime and not have anything to show for all the time missed away from my family.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:37pm 08-29-22

25 years is enough at that point age should not be a issue.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:36pm 08-29-22

Support this for our blue family. Make this job desirable again.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:35pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this as having a 30 year retirement is unreasonable and prevents the Maui Police Department from being competitive against other departments in a time when recruiting new Police Officers is extremely important.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:35pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this.. Police Officers put their lives on the line everyday to protect the public. Why punish them by making them work longer.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:34pm 08-29-22

i support this resolution

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:34pm 08-29-22

I support

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:33pm 08-29-22

I fully support this resolution. Removing the minimum age requirement will make police officer positions in Hawaii more competitive with continental US police departments and lead to more qualified applicants. Police departments in Hawaii are at dire levels of staffing and in need of legislative support such as this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:32pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:31pm 08-29-22

Policing is a physically, mentally and emotionally demanding profession, which makes it less likely that officers will continue service to meet the current retirement eligibility. By age 55, the physical nature of our job has taken a heavy toll on our bodies.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:31pm 08-29-22

I am in support of a 25 year retirement. 30 years is very long compared to many departments on the mainland. Also with increased demand of the Officers, a 25 year retirement would be a healthier choice.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:30pm 08-29-22

When your career involves protecting your community 24/7, it takes a total on your mind and body. Your life is drastically reduced due to the obvious and studies have shown life after retirement for LEOs is about 7 years. Having to put in 30 plus years to retire is not an incentive and will continue to add to the shortage of LEOs.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:29pm 08-29-22

30 years is too long in any career especially one where it requires you to put your life on the line for the community. And taking away time from your wife and children

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:28pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this. It will help greatly when it come to recruitment, as well as keeping the officers we already have. So many have transferred over the past several years because of the new retirement situation.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:27pm 08-29-22

100% support this. Hopefully in the future we can compete with other agencies/departments and drop it down to 20 years.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:25pm 08-29-22

Must have better incentives for new Police officers to join

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:25pm 08-29-22

I support 25 years retirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:25pm 08-29-22

Definitely in support. 25 years is long enough and gives them a healthy amount of years after retirement to enjoy life.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:24pm 08-29-22

The current retirement eligibility rules will cause more officers to leave, placing an additional burden on those who stay. This will make the physical/emotional stresses of the job even worse. Let's make it fair, equal and reasonable. Thank you

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:23pm 08-29-22

I support the 25 year pension.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:22pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution 22-200

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:22pm 08-29-22

In support to remove the minimum age requirement! 25 years is a long time in a very stressful career. The minimum age requirement to retire is off putting to younger people who might want to join. Especially being in patrol for 25 years which has rotating shifts and much more high stress situations.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:22pm 08-29-22

I'm in support of the 25 year retirement plan.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:21pm 08-29-22

In full support of removing the minimum age requirement for police officer retirement. I believe it will ultimately benefit all parties involved.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:20pm 08-29-22

This is very important and needs to be done to support our Officers and their families.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:20pm 08-29-22

I strongly support this resolution.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:18pm 08-29-22

I support this resolution 22-200

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:15pm 08-29-22

It is true and the stress induced lives of police officers is what kills them. Unusual shift work, rotating from day to night to afternoon. In mainland, most departments let officers retire in 20 years, as well as federal law enforcement agencies. There's good reason behind this. Let's save the lives of those who save ours.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:14pm 08-29-22

I support the 25 year retirement time period. Will help with recruitment, retention, and just overall well-being and health of Officer who spend their career in this profession, as difficult as it is becoming.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:12pm 08-29-22

Sir and Ma'am,

As a current police officer serving under the "new" 30 year plan with the age 55 I can tell you that any person who I speak to I advise to not join this department simply due to this poor retirement system. It is disheartening to



know that we have to get to this point for you to do something that never should have been implemented in the first place. I know several officers, myself included, that are willing and actively looking for other departments in the mainland for the better retirement as in a 25yr. To expect someone to spend 30 years as a officer is idiotic. Not just expect but demand at this point with this retirement system. This needs to be changed now if you want our citizens to stay protected by having correct staffing, otherwise your just setting the citizens and us up for failure. Do your job and fix what you broke.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:12pm 08-29-22

You should be able to retire after completing your required years of service no matter what your age is.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:12pm 08-29-22

I joined the Police Department at the age of 22 and have now been in the department for almost 10 years. Since starting I have noticed the work load for patrol officers have greatly increased causing more and more officers to transfer or resign. When an officer transfers or resigns it leaves our department even more short staffed. With the number of vacancies in the department it is also limited opportunities for promotions. For an officer to be stuck on patrol working 30 years is extremely taxing and unappealing. I highly suggest we remove the minimum age requirement for police officer retirement.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:10pm 08-29-22

I support the 25 year plan. I like many officers can agree that this job is demanding on both our mental and physical health. I joined after the age of 30, being a more mature officer when I joined. I am hoping I am still able to enjoy retirement at 55 years of age.....

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:09pm 08-29-22

Support! 25 years of service is honorable and a worthy accomplishment. Let's not hold a age requirement over the members head to delay retirement. Age should not matter as the member would already be at a minimum mid forty after 25 years of service. Let's give them an opportunity to explore other avenues while they are relatively able to.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:08pm 08-29-22

This will help with recruitment, retention, and build morale. Especially in this day and age of policing.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:08pm 08-29-22

I support the 25 year service retirement time period WITHOUT having to be the age of 55 to retire. This would help with the recruitment and retaining younger officers.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:06pm 08-29-22

This needs to go to the State Legislature as well.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:05pm 08-29-22

Support a 25 year service retirement time period regardless of what age you are when you attain it.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:03pm 08-29-22

Dear Sir or Madam,

As a current police officer serving under the original 25 year requirement without age 55, I can tell you this is awesome. As we currently stand, the years of service and age requirement is a major contributing factor with young officers not joining, or deciding to leave. The job of a police officer is unique and unattractive under this current system and will increase the departure from this profession. I said it many times, a police officer is not like another government job. By the time you hit 25 years, it's usually in the interest of the officer that they consider moving on from this type of service. Thank you.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:01pm 08-29-22

Statistically police officers die younger than the national average. They should be able to enjoy their retirement after giving their service regardless of age.

**Guest User**

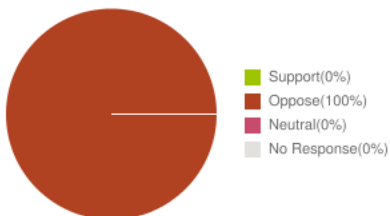
Location:

Submitted At: 4:01pm 08-29-22

I support the 25 year pension

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-3(3) Reso 22-196 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-196, RELATING TO RESIDENTIAL LANDLORD-TENANT CODE) (GREAT-3(3))

Overall Sentiment



**Jason Economou**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:03pm 08-29-22

Aloha Committee Chair Molina and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the REALTORS Association of Maui and our 2,000+ members in my capacity as their Government Affairs Director. The REALTORS Association of Maui (RAM) is deeply concerned over the amendments to the Landlord-Tenant Code that are proposed in Resolution 22-196, and we strongly urge this committee to file the resolution and pursue other options.

It is clear that Resolution 22-196 is well intentioned and seeks to address some very real problems that are having an acute effect on our community. Nevertheless, the changes sought in Resolution 22-196 are not likely to solve our current rental housing crisis. If the bill attached to Resolution 22-196 was ever actually passed by our state legislature, it would create the perfect market conditions for even higher inflation in the rental housing market, and almost certainly reduce inventory of private rental housing overall. To put this in terms of the

commonly mentioned metaphor of the “house on fire,” this legislation is likely to add fuel to the fire.

Recent and severe increases in rental housing costs are not specific to Maui County, or even the State of Hawaii. Instead, this is a growing issue both nationally and globally. This issue largely stems from a severe lack of rental housing inventory (particularly at lower cost levels), and largely a result of increased inflation overall. There is a robust body of economic research that has analyzed the impacts of rent control in communities where it has been implemented, and that research generally indicates that rent control leads to decreased inventory (particularly at lower cost levels), and significantly less reinvestment in rental housing from landlords (i.e. higher costs for lower quality housing, or, inflation). These impacts will only make our rental housing market more difficult for our residents in the long run. Additionally, there are a slew of other unintended consequences that will have to be combated as well. Some of these consequences might include:

- Refusal to grant 12 month leases or let tenants stay beyond 12 months in order to avoid being subject to these proposed revisions to the landlord tenant code.
- Increased evictions for minor infractions in order to remove tenants without having to lose a month of rent or be subject to these proposed amendments. This would create broader housing insecurity because landlords often check court records and avoid renting to tenants that have had an eviction action filed against them.
- Changes to the standard rental contract that incorporate the maximum number and amount of rental increases allowed under law. This would essentially guarantee 5% rent increases each year for the first 2 years of every tenancy (as there is a limit to 2 increases every 36 months for the same tenant).
- Significant inflation on the value of new leases once this is implemented, because property owners will be aware that they may be likely to lose the last month's rent and their security deposit will become largely meaningless. Therefore, 11 months of rent will soon cost as much as 12 months used to, in order to make up the difference for the potential loss.
- Increased burden on landlords, as they will be likely to lose the 12th month's rent if the tenant is given no-fault notice, and they will also be limited on covering repair costs with the restrictions the Landlord-Tenant Code already places on use of the security deposit. If landlords feel this new law is overly burdensome, they will remove their rental housing from the market or sell to someone else, which may have the same impact in the end.

Ultimately, if the County of Maui wants to address the issues of inventory and inflation, there are other solutions that could be pursued more effectively. You are already doing outstanding work in your efforts to bring new inventory online through new development and through existing incentives, but greater efforts could be made on “public/private partnerships” with property owners through new incentives. Rather than imposing new rules and threats of penalties on landlords, the county should make better efforts to establish robust incentives for landlords who are willing to work with the County of Maui and help solve the housing crisis.

For example, the county could provide monetary incentives and continued support services to local landlords who are willing to give long-term leases at affordable rates. The monetary incentives could be something like a signing bonus and improved real property tax rates, and the support service could be grants for damages that exceed the security deposit and/or access to discounted services from qualified local contractors that are vetted by the county. Similarly, you could scale the incentives in relation to the length of the lease provided and the income level that the lease targets. To go a step further with the incentive idea, the county could also consider increased assistance related to the development of ohana units on private residential properties, and have favorable financing, grants, and expedited permitting linked to the use of the ohana for kamaaina rental housing. These are just a few ideas that might help address the root causes of our rental housing crisis without the likely result of reduced inventory.

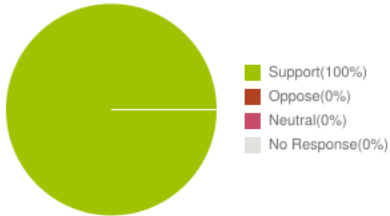
We are in a housing crisis, and I applaud Councilmember Johnson and this council for your continued efforts to address this crisis. Though I agree with your motives, the good intentions behind Resolution 22-196 are not sufficient to remove the likely consequences of the legislation. Good intentions do not automatically make good law. Even if you do not file Resolution 22-196, I strongly urge you all to conduct further research on the history of rent control and its impacts, and to pursue more incentive-based alternatives.

Mahalo,

Jason A. Economou  
Government Affairs Director

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-3(4) Reso 22-197 HAWAII STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (RESOLUTION 22-197, RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE) (GREAT-3(4))

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:50pm 08-29-22

August 29, 2022

Honorable, Michael J. Molina, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, Chair  
Honorable, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, Vice Chair  
Honorable Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

RE: MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (RESOLUTION 22-197, RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE) (GREAT-3(4)). RESOLUTION 22-197 'S PURPOSE IS TO APPROVE FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2023 HAWAI'I STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A PROPOSED STATE BILL, ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A," ENTITLED "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE."

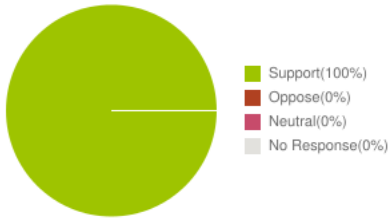
Chair Molina:

My name is Brandon Ili and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor-management fund representing 3000 unionized members in heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction. Our organization would like to offer our written testimony in support of Resolution 22-197.

Unfortunately, since the mid- 1990s, our compliance team has filed complaint after complaint with public agencies against "low road" contractors who have cheated their employees out of their wages, vacation pay, medical and health benefits, and retirement pay. By establishing verifiable standards and objective criteria via legislation the state will ensure that public agencies will employ "high road" contractors who adhere to high ethical standards, ensure training for their employees, and follow Hawaii's laws for procurement, wage standards, and safety.

Therefore, we humbly ask for your approval and passing of Resolution 22-197.

## Overall Sentiment



## Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:53pm 08-29-22

August 29, 2022

Honorable, Michael J. Molina, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, Chair  
Honorable, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

RE: MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE (RESOLUTION 22-202, RELATING TO HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE) (GREAT-4(4)). RESOLUTION 22-202'S PURPOSE IS TO APPROVE FOR INCLUSION IN THE 2023 MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE PACKAGE A PROPOSED STATE BILL, ATTACHED AS EXHIBIT "A," ENTITLED "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CODE."

Chair Molina:

My name is Brandon Ili and I am the Executive Director of the Hawaii Operating Engineers Industry Stabilization Fund (HOEISF). We are a labor management fund representing 3000 unionized members in heavy engineering site work and 500 general contractors specializing in heavy site and vertical construction. Our organization would like to offer our written testimony in support of Resolution 22-202.

As mentioned in the description for Resolution 22-202, The purpose of the proposed State bill is to preserve administrative resources by ensuring that only qualified contractors and subcontractors are awarded capital improvement projects based on past experience, quality craftwork, efficient operation, and safety.

Unfortunately, since the mid- 1990s, our compliance team has filed complaint after complaint with public agencies against "low road" contractors who have cheated their employees out of their wages, vacation pay, medical and health benefits, and retirement pay. By establishing verifiable standards and objective criteria via legislation the state will ensure that public agencies will employ "high road" contractors who adhere to high ethical standards, ensure training for their employees, and follow Hawaii's laws for procurement, wage standards, and safety.

Therefore, we humbly ask for your approval and passing of Resolution 22-202.



Jason A. Economou  
Government Affairs Director

441 Ala Makani Pl • Kahului, HI 96732  
phone 808-243-8585 • fax 808-873-8585  
Jason@RAMaui.com • www.ramaui.com

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August 29, 2022

**Committee Chair Michael Molina**

Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee  
Council of the County of Maui  
200 South High Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**RE: Resolution 22-196, Relating to Residential Landlord-Tenant Code (GREAT-3(3))**

Aloha Committee Chair Molina and Committee Members,

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the REALTORS Association of Maui and our 2,000+ members in my capacity as their Government Affairs Director. The REALTORS Association of Maui (RAM) is deeply concerned over the amendments to the Landlord-Tenant Code that are proposed in Resolution 22-196, and **we strongly urge this committee to file the resolution and pursue other options.**

It is clear that Resolution 22-196 is well intentioned and seeks to address some very real problems that are having an acute effect on our community. Nevertheless, the changes sought in Resolution 22-196 are not likely to solve our current rental housing crisis. If the bill attached to Resolution 22-196 was ever actually passed by our state legislature, it would create the perfect market conditions for even higher inflation in the rental housing market, and almost certainly reduce inventory of private rental housing overall. To put this in terms of the commonly mentioned metaphor of the "house on fire," this legislation is likely to add fuel to the fire.

Recent and severe increases in rental housing costs are not specific to Maui County, or even the State of Hawaii. Instead, this is a growing issue both nationally and globally. This issue largely stems from a severe lack of rental housing inventory (particularly at lower cost levels), and largely a result of increased inflation overall. There is a robust body of economic research that has analyzed the impacts of rent control in communities where it has been implemented, and that research generally indicates that rent control leads to decreased inventory (particularly at lower cost levels), and significantly less reinvestment in rental housing from landlords (i.e. higher costs for lower quality housing, or, inflation). These impacts will only make our rental housing market more difficult for our residents in the long run. Additionally, there are a slew of other unintended consequences that will have to be combated as well. Some of these consequences might include:

- Refusal to grant 12 month leases or let tenants stay beyond 12 months in order to avoid being subject to these proposed revisions to the landlord tenant code.
- Increased evictions for minor infractions in order to remove tenants without having to lose a month of rent or be subject to these proposed amendments. This would create broader housing

insecurity because landlords often check court records and avoid renting to tenants that have had an eviction action filed against them.

- Changes to the standard rental contract that incorporate the maximum number and amount of rental increases allowed under law. This would essentially guarantee 5% rent increases each year for the first 2 years of every tenancy (as there is a limit to 2 increases every 36 months for the same tenant).
- Significant inflation on the value of new leases once this is implemented, because property owners will be aware that they may be likely to lose the last month's rent and their security deposit will become largely meaningless. Therefore, 11 months of rent will soon cost as much as 12 months used to, in order to make up the difference for the potential loss.
- Increased burden on landlords, as they will be likely to lose the 12th month's rent if the tenant is given no-fault notice, and they will also be limited on covering repair costs with the restrictions the Landlord-Tenant Code already places on use of the security deposit. If landlords feel this new law is overly burdensome, they will remove their rental housing from the market or sell to someone else, which may have the same impact in the end.

Ultimately, if the County of Maui wants to address the issues of inventory and inflation, there are other solutions that could be pursued more effectively. You are already doing outstanding work in your efforts to bring new inventory online through new development and through existing incentives, but greater efforts could be made on "public/private partnerships" with property owners through new incentives. Rather than imposing new rules and threats of penalties on landlords, the county should make better efforts to establish robust incentives for landlords who are willing to work with the County of Maui and help solve the housing crisis.

For example, the county could provide monetary incentives and continued support services to local landlords who are willing to give long-term leases at affordable rates. The monetary incentives could be something like a signing bonus and improved real property tax rates, and the support service could be grants for damages that exceed the security deposit and/or access to discounted services from qualified local contractors that are vetted by the county. Similarly, you could scale the incentives in relation to the length of the lease provided and the income level that the lease targets. To go a step further with the incentive idea, the county could also consider increased assistance related to the development of ohana units on private residential properties, and have favorable financing, grants, and expedited permitting linked to the use of the ohana for kamaaina rental housing. These are just a few ideas that might help address the root causes of our rental housing crisis without the likely result of reduced inventory.

We are in a housing crisis, and I applaud Councilmember Johnson and this council for your continued efforts to address this crisis. Though I agree with your motives, the good intentions behind Resolution 22-196 are not sufficient to remove the likely consequences of the legislation. Good intentions do not automatically make good law. Even if you do not file Resolution 22-196, I strongly urge you all to conduct further research on the history of rent control and its impacts, and to pursue more incentive-based alternatives.

Mahalo,



Jason A. Economou  
Government Affairs Director  
REALTORS Association of Maui