

Testimony for Social Host Ordinance

To: Committee on Governance, Ethics, and Transparency
Council Member Michael J. Molina, Chair
Council Member Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair

From: Kristin Mills, M.S., M.A.

Date: November 25, 2020

Subject: Support for Maui County Social Host Ordinance

My name is Kristin Mills and I live in Pukalani. I am a voter, work as a Public Health Educator for the Maui District Health Office, and am also a mother of two youth here on Maui (a teenager and a soon-to-be teenager).

As a mother of two youth and Public Health Educator who cares for ALL youth, I am writing to express my support for this enforceable Maui County Social Host Ordinance, and to ask for you to vote in favor of it because we need to deter underage drinking. Our youth are still minors and need to be protected by the harms of underage drinking.

Many parents unfortunately view underage drinking as inevitable and have the misconception that having “house parties” to allow youth to drink under adult supervision as a safe option.

However, house parties are NOT safe havens. House parties and underage drinking lead to many other unhealthy behaviors, including increased physical fights, sexual assaults, alcohol poisoning, drunk driving, car crashes, and even death.

As a reminder, our youth are still underaged minors and need our protection. Let’s protect our youth and reduce underage drinking (as well as its unhealthy aftermath) by adopting a county-wide social host ordinance.

In closing, underage drinking is never safe, even in the home. Please support a local social host ordinance.

Sincerely,

Kristin Mills, M.S., M.A.

Public Health Educator

Maui District Health Office