

**Written Testimony in Opposition  
Bill 2 (2026)  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to Bill 2 (2026).

I recognize the importance of ensuring that the Board of Ethics is adequately staffed and that compensation levels are sufficient to attract and retain qualified personnel. My opposition to this measure is not based on salary amounts or staffing needs, but on the governance and oversight structure established by the bill.

Bill 2 amends Section 2.56.080, Maui County Code, to transfer salary-setting authority for Board of Ethics staff from the Maui County Council to the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics, within established pay ranges. While this change may appear administrative, it represents a permanent shift of oversight authority away from the elected legislative body to an internal executive structure.

The Board of Ethics occupies a unique position within County government. It is responsible for enforcing ethical standards applicable to County employees, appointed officials, and elected officials. Because of this role, maintaining clear external oversight and public accountability over the Board's internal governance is especially important. Allowing the Board to internally control its own compensation structure, without continued Council involvement, reduces transparency and weakens an important check that supports public confidence in the institution.

Once authority of this nature is delegated, it is rarely revisited or reclaimed. Bill 2 contains no sunset provision, no periodic review requirement, and no mandatory reporting to the Council regarding aggregate compensation changes over time. As a result, the bill permanently alters the balance of oversight without establishing corresponding safeguards.

For these reasons, I oppose Bill 2 (2026) as drafted. Any modification to the governance structure of the Board of Ethics should preserve meaningful external oversight by the elected Council and include clear review and reporting requirements before authority is permanently transferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.

**Submitted by:**  
Edward Codelia  
Maui Resident