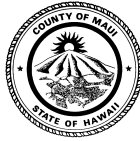Council Chair
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Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
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Director of Council Services
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February 3, 2015

TO: The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
          House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

          The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
          House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mike White
          Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 4, 2015; TESTIMONY IN <u>SUPPORT</u> OF HB 730, RELATING TO PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to require state agencies to hold public hearings in the county, or counties, primarily impacted by the proposed adoption, amendment, or repeal of any administrative rule.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The lack of public hearings on the neighbor islands hinders civic engagement. The Department of Health ("DOH") recently proposed amendments to cesspool rules. Although most cesspools are on neighbor islands, public hearings were only held on Oahu. This left residents facing the greatest impacts and with the most relevant knowledge, being precluded from fully engaging in the rule making process.

2. Public hearings on neighbor islands will promote informed decisions. Under pressure, the DOH agreed to hold "informational meetings" on the neighbor islands for the cesspool rules. Even through this limited opportunity for public participation, it allowed the DOH to become much better informed as to the dire impacts of the proposed rule changes.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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