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April 3, 2017

TO: The Honorable Jill N. Tokuda, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 4, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 145, SD 1 REQUESTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A COLLABORATIVE PLAN TO BEST LEVERAGE STATE AND COUNTY FUNDS TO BUILD AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROJECTS AND AN EXPLORATION OF THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING A PARCEL OF LAND IN KAHULUI, MAUI, TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to develop a collaborative plan to best leverage available state and county funds to build affordable housing projects.

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 Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. As partners in governance, this measure is an opportunity to work together and directly impact the lives of constituents both the state and counties serve. The property involved located at 153 West Kaahumanu Avenue in Kahului is to be used for a mixed-use affordable rental housing project, which can begin once transferred to the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation.
2. The property is ideally situated in Central Maui, in close proximity to community amenities such as public transit, schools, shops, businesses, parks and medical clinics.
3. The most recent Hawaii Housing Planning Study notes 12,000 housing units on Maui are needed until 2025. There is also an estimated 1,400 homeless individuals on Maui County. The Maui County Council is committed to supporting legislation, methods, and programs that will increase the availability of affordable housing.

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

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