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February 22, 2017

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
          House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mike White
          Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2017; TESTIMONY IN <u>OPPOSITION</u> TO
          HB 1410 HD 1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this measure. This bill establishes a pilot program and authorizes TAT expenditure for county regulation and operation of ambulance services.

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 strongly **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1. As repeatedly explained to the state legislature, the counties' current share of the TAT is already inadequate to pay for the increasing costs of county-provided services, such as water and sewer, police, fire and ocean safety protection, and road maintenance. I stand in opposition to this proposal that seeks to begin the shifting of ambulance services to the counties, and the suggestion that TAT funds should be tapped to pay for these services.

2. I support the current relationship and partnership the counties have with the state Emergency Management System, which has worked well and should be maintained. Under this structure, ambulance services fall under the Department of Health.

3. Instead of considering the unreasonable financial burden and transfer of responsibilities, it is imperative that the state fully and adequately fund ambulance services in each county.

For the foregoing reasons, I strongly **oppose** this measure.

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