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February 6, 2017

TO: The Honorable Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair
House Committee Labor & Public Employment

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 332, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of the Maui County Council in **support** of this measure. This proposal authorizes a nonvoting county council representative to participate in collective bargaining negotiations for county employees and amends the number of votes allotted to the governor for units 11 and 12.

This measure is in the 2017 Maui County Council Legislative Package. Therefore, I submit this testimony on behalf of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. The current collective bargaining process does not allow participation by county council representatives, despite being the appropriating body for cost items. Collective bargaining agreements arrive as a "done deal" before details and cost implications are shared with councils, leaving no ability to assess an agreement's impact on the counties' tax base and overall operations.
2. This measure would greatly improve the communication flow of collective bargaining information by allowing a county council representative to attend as a nonvoting participant if the respective county has employees in the particular bargaining unit.
3. This proposal will bring parity to negotiations where the counties have a larger financial stake in an outcome by equalizing votes among the state and counties. This would only apply to bargaining units 11 (firefighters) and 12 (police officers), which are primarily funded and operated under the counties.

Mahalo for your consideration. For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

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