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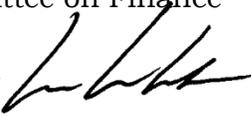
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February 21, 2018

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2018; OFFERING COMMENTS ON HB 1787 HD 1, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **comments** on this important measure. The revised purpose of this bill is to require mayors to report collective bargaining negotiations to their respective councils.

This measure is included in the Hawaii State Association of Counties' Legislative Package. Therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Maui County Council.

I offer the following **comments** on this measure:

1. I commend the **original intent** of this bill, which was to allow a representative of each county council to be present as a nonvoting participant in negotiations with bargaining units if the relevant county has employees in the particular bargaining unit.
2. 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.
3. The **original measure** would greatly improve the flow of collective bargaining information by allowing a county council representative to attend negotiations and understand the dynamics and context of deliberations. Like other sensitive matters, the information would be held in confidence and only shared in executive session, pursuant to HRS.
4. When costs impact the counties more than the State in negotiations, such as the case for police officers and firefighters, the counties should have equal or more votes in negotiations. This bill however, is a first step in greater levels of communication.

I commend the **original intent** of this bill and urge you to reconsider allowing a representative of each county council to be present as a nonvoting participant in negotiations with relevant bargaining units. Thank you for your consideration of my foregoing **comments** on this measure.