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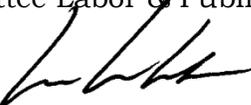
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February 7, 2018

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1787, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is 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 and requires mayors to report collective bargaining unit negotiations to their respective county 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 **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 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 and requires mayors to report the status of negotiations to the county councils. Like other pending sensitive matters, the information would be held in confidence and only shared in executive session, pursuant to HRS.
3. 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.

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