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 Mike White

Vice-Chair
 Robert Carroll

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 Stacy Crivello
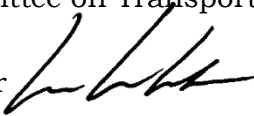
Councilmembers
 Alika Atay
 Elle Cochran
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 Riki Hokama
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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 8, 2018

TO: The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
           House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Mike White
           Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2177, RELATING TO HIGHWAY BEAUTIFICATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to make the motor vehicle registration fee for U-drive motor vehicles consistent with the fee for all other motor vehicles.

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.   U-drive motor vehicles, better known as rental vehicles, benefit from a lower highway beautification fee as compared to all other vehicles. The fee is particularly important, as the revenues fund highway beautification projects and the disposal of abandoned or derelict vehicles, which is an on-going issue throughout Maui County.

2.   Visitor counts continue to grow, which places a larger burden on county resources. Since the counties transient accommodation tax has been capped, the county has had to pick up the increased burden resulting from more visitors. As a result, county resources have become increasingly strapped, including the County's highway beautification fund, which has experienced shortfalls. This measure will help ensure funds are available to keep our highways clean and abandoned and derelict vehicles off our roadways.

3.   U-drive motor vehicles share the roads alongside all other vehicles. Therefore, U-drive vehicle owners should contribute equally to highway beautification.

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

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