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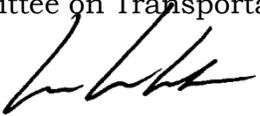
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January 31, 2018

TO: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 1, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2255, RELATING TO THE CENTRAL MAUI TRANSIT HUB**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriate funds for the planning, design, and construction of the central Maui transit hub.

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. The central Maui transit hub project is a critical priority. The County has received formal notice that the lease for the current transit hub at the Kaahumanu Shopping Center will expire and the premises must be vacated by January 31, 2020.
2. The transit hub is the core of Maui's robust public transportation system, which provides access to jobs, healthcare, social, recreational and educational opportunities to upwards of 2.1 million riders each year. A State-County partnership in moving this project forward ensures citizens are able to maintain vital economic connections and opportunities.
3. The County has identified a possible location on State property for the hub and, with this funding, will be able to take immediate action to ensure the transportation system continues to serve residents and visitors.

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