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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 30, 2018

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

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 31, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2996, RELATING TO AN AIRPORTS CORPORATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to establish the Hawaii Airports Corporation, which shall assume overall jurisdiction and responsibility for aeronautics and airports, including responsibility for the development, management, operation, and maintenance of the State's airports beginning on July 1, 2019.

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 planning, design, and construction of critical modernization projects has fallen behind as a result of numerous layers of government regulation and changes in administrations. Compounding the situation is the State Department of Transportation's vast jurisdiction, which includes oversight of not only airports but also harbors and roadways.
2. The purpose of the Hawaii Airports Corporation is to provide consistent leadership with a clear, singular focus on maintaining, completing critical upgrade projects, and overseeing long-term planning, at all 15 statewide airports.
3. The Kahului Airport is the second busiest airport in the state, serving an average of 7,000 passengers daily, and hosting over a dozen airlines. For these passengers, many of whom are visitors, Kahului Airport is their first and last impression of Hawaii. Therefore, it is vital for us to make the present and future structural and aesthetic improvements necessary to maintain and grow our tourism-based economy.

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