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February 19, 2019

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

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 131, HD 2, RELATING TO HEMP**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to facilitate the regulation and production of hemp.

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. Hemp has the potential to remediate our contaminated soils and is naturally resistant to most pests. After decades of growing sugar, hemp would aerate agricultural lands and boost their productivity.
2. Growing hemp could have a substantial positive impact on the economy. According to the Hemp Industries Association, the U.S. hemp industry was valued at an estimated \$500 million in annual retail sales for all hemp products in 2012. That number has only grown since that time.
3. Many farmers and business people in Maui County have recently expressed excitement for the opportunities created by hemp legalization. Hemp should be properly regulated by the State, but regulation should not restrain or restrict entrepreneurs from appropriately creating innovative products with hemp.

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