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February 4, 2019

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 6, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 131, RELATING TO HEMP**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to legalize hemp to the extent legalized under federal law and requires the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture to prepare and submit a proposed state plan to monitor and regulate hemp production.

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.
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 and grown for all hemp products.
3. Legalization of hemp to the extent legalized under federal law would be appropriate because hemp has no value as a recreational drug. It is of a different breed of Cannabis sativa than marijuana.

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