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February 25, 2019

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

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly T. King".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH REVISIONS OF HB 1395, HD1, RELATING TO SMOKING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support with revisions** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to establish a \$100 fine for persons over 21 who smoke on public-school property or at public-school functions.

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 with revisions for the following reasons:

1. This measure would allow the State to take more proactive measures in combating the leading cause of preventable disease and death in the United States and in Hawaii: tobacco use.
2. Tobacco use continues to be a public-health problem in Hawaii, causing approximately 1,400 deaths per year, costing approximately \$526 million in direct healthcare expenditures, and resulting in \$387 million of lost productivity.
3. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control found 25.3 percent of high-school students in Hawaii used electronic-smoking devices, with the Maui County rate at 31.8 percent.
4. I would suggest revising this measure to require a \$100 fine to persons over 18 years of age, instead of 21.

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