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February 11, 2019

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair *Kelly King*

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 276 HD 1, RELATING TO FLAVORED TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the sale or distribution of all flavored tobacco products, including with menthol, in the State of Hawai'i.

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. 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 Hawai'i: tobacco use.
2. Tobacco companies specifically target young people with flavored tobacco products. This leads to addiction and long-term negative health effects.
3. This measure would help the State protect keiki from preventable diseases.
4. This measure allows any county to adopt a rule or ordinance that places greater restrictions on the access of tobacco products provided in the measure, which allows counties to more effectively address the needs of their communities' air-quality, health and safety.

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