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February 12, 2019

Kelly King

TO: The Honorable Roy Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 387, HD 1, RELATING TO HEALTH**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the shipment and transport of tobacco products to anyone other than a licensee and to increase the license fees and excise taxes on wholesalers or dealers.

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. Unregulated shipping and importing of tobacco products undermine efforts to protect underage smokers who often circumvent the age-verification process for purchasing tobacco.
2. Tobacco licensing is an effective tool for limiting the negative public health consequences of tobacco use by ensuring that wholesalers and retailers comply with responsible sales practices.
3. While all cigarettes are dangerous, illegally imported or counterfeit cigarettes often contain higher levels of tar, nicotine, and carbon monoxide than other cigarettes, and may contain contaminants such as sand and packaging materials.

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