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February 11, 2019

Kelly King

TO: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 550, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to require that the Public Utilities Commission study the feasibility of implementing renewable portfolio standards that encourage the use of renewable energy by gas utility companies; and to amend the renewable portfolio standard interim goals to accelerate the adoption of renewable energy.

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. The need to reduce carbon emissions locally and globally to avoid the worst impacts of climate change has become increasingly urgent, as seen, for example, in Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report. Speeding up the deployment of renewable energy will create thousands of jobs and will position Hawai'i at the forefront of energy innovation and investment.
2. Hawai'i's energy sector transitioning to renewable energy strengthens the State's economy, environment, and security. To complete this transition successfully, it is important that all relevant entities, including gas utility companies, are aligned.

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

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