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February 19, 2019

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Kelly King

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 20, 2019; OFFERING COMMENTS ON SB 1131, SD1, RELATING TO OHANA ZONES**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer **comments** on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to increase the number of Ohana Zone sites on Oahu and to increase the number of Ohana Zone sites on Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui if the Ohana Zones pilot program capacity permits.

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 offer the following comments:

1. It appears Ohana Zones program funding has not proven useful on Maui thus far. Increasing the number of sites may not necessarily increase the program's reach or improve its effectiveness.
2. I respectfully suggest the Legislature consider modifying the parameters of the program itself. Goals should be focused on providing housing for specific numbers of houseless persons by a certain date, while allowing flexibility in the implementation of the Ohana Zones program to best suit the needs of each island.

Thank you for your consideration of my foregoing **comments** on this measure.