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## **COUNTY COUNCIL**

COUNTY OF MAUI 200 S. HIGH STREET WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 www.MauiCounty.us

February 7, 2019

TO: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military

Affairs

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Kelly T. King

Council Chair

SUBJECT: HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

SB 1327, RELATING TO PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE SHORELINE IN

**SOUTH MAUI** 

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to develop a master plan to expand public access to the shoreline in South Maui, particularly to State-owned land; and to appropriate the necessary funds for this purpose.

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. As set forth in the Maui County General Plan, the policy of the County is to improve the stewardship of the natural environment by "providing public access to beaches and shorelines for recreational and cultural purposes where appropriate."
- 2. Allowing these shorelines to become a public resource for Maui County's community would open possibilities of sustainable, educational, and cultural practices, as opposed to privatization or inappropriate development.
- 3. Opening public access to these shorelines would result in a positive environmental impact and safe recreational atmosphere for our local and visitor communities.

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For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

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