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

February 11, 2019

TO: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

FROM: Kelly T. King, Secretary
Hawai'i State Association of Counties ("HSAC")

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 161, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Kelly King

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to provide to a taxpayer who hires a person with a disability a nonrefundable tax credit for the six-month period after the person is initially hired by the taxpayer.

This measure is included in the HSAC Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony as HSAC's Secretary.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Fostering employment of persons with disabilities is a national and local priority for advocacy organizations and a key to achieving full community integration.
2. Persons with disabilities are sometimes stigmatized as incapable by potential employers. In actuality, they perform just as well, if not better, than those without disabilities.
3. This bill encourages the hiring of individuals with a disability, which adds motivated people to the workforce and promotes an inclusive culture.

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