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February 8, 2019

TO: The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, International, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Rosalyn Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: ^{KG} Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 182, RELATING TO COUNTY AUTHORITY ON THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to amend and repeal certain provisions relating to the preemption of local laws or ordinances that regulate the sale of cigarettes, tobacco products, and electronic smoking devices.

This measure is in the Maui County's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Tobacco use continues to be a public health problem in Hawaii, causing approximately 1,400 deaths per year, costing approximately \$526 million in direct healthcare expenditures, and resulting in \$387 million of lost productivity in the State.
2. While it is important to establish minimum regulations statewide, local policies are integral to tobacco control. Indeed, one of the top objectives of the federal Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion's "Healthy People 2020" campaign is: "Eliminate state laws that preempt stronger local tobacco control laws."
3. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control found 25.3 percent of high school students in Hawaii used electronic smoking devices, with the Maui County rate at 31.8 percent. County government should be equipped to address this problem.

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

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