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February 11, 2019

Kelly King

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 571, RELATING TO RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require gas utility companies to establish renewable energy portfolio standards for gas and to provide means for the companies to meet those standards.

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 State of Hawai'i is committed to achieving an energy portfolio consisting of 100 percent affordable energy by 2045. Achieving this goal will require concerted effort from everyone, including gas utility companies.
2. If gas utilities are not required to achieve 100 percent renewable energy, then a disparity will grow between gas utilities and electric utilities, which do have this requirement. Furthermore, not requiring gas utilities to also achieve the State's energy goals violates the intent of our renewable energy commitment.
3. Gas utilities already have options that can help them transition to renewable energy. As the science of renewable energy progresses, the amount of options for gas alternatives will only continue to grow.

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