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February 9, 2019

TO: The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

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

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 649, RELATING TO WATER CONSERVATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish a two-year water conservation financial assistance pilot program to provide financial assistance to county-owned public water systems.

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. Conservation is an important focus for the Maui County Department of Water Supply, which already manages several conservation programs. For example, the Department gives away rain barrels, which can help people save on their water bills while also reducing stormwater runoff, and it works with residents to replace old plumbing fixtures with more efficient ones. This measure will enhance the Department's efforts in this field.
2. As more housing is developed and the need for water increases, the Department will need to find even more ways to encourage both existing and new residents to conserve water. This measure's financial assistance program would be a great benefit to the Department, provided it continues to have the flexibility to explore conservation options that are particularly well suited to the people of Maui County.

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