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February 7, 2019

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 958, RELATING TO ELECTIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to increase the amount of information provided to registered voters in Hawai'i by requiring the Chief Election Officer to publish and disseminate a voters' pamphlet and by appropriating funds to allow the Chief Election Officer to produce and distribute a voters' pamphlet for each election.

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. Voter-information pamphlets would allow voters to more readily and effectively exercise their right to vote by informing them about ballot measures and candidates seeking office.
2. As stated on page 79 of the Countywide Policy Plan, it is a goal set forth in the Maui County General Plan to promote civic engagement through an increase of voter registration and turnout. This measure would be a positive step toward fulfillment of that goal.
3. In 2018, only 52.4 percent of Maui County's registered voters and 52.7 percent of registered voters statewide cast a ballot in the General Election. This measure would make potential voters more well informed and, consequently, more likely to cast a ballot.

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