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March 13, 2019

TO: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development and Business

FROM: Kelly T. King  
Council Chair

Handwritten signature of Kelly T. King in black ink.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 14, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT WITH REVISIONS OF SB 522, SD2, RELATING TO PLASTIC**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support with revisions** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to prohibit the purchase, use, sale, or distribution of plastic beverage bottles, utensils, stirring sticks, polystyrene foam containers, and straws by state and county agencies after July 1, 2021, and by businesses selling food and beverages after July 1, 2022. The bill also aims to ban the distribution or sale of plastic bags after July 1, 2023 and create the plastic source reduction working group to make recommendations for eliminating single-use plastic packaging.

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 with revisions for the following reasons:

1. Since the 1950s, plastic production has outpaced that of almost all other materials, but most plastic is designed to be thrown away after a single use.
2. Single-use disposable food ware and packaging are major contributors to street and beach litter, ocean pollution, marine and other wildlife harm, and greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Even when recycling markets were open, only nine percent of the 9,000,000,000 tons of plastic produced has been recycled.
4. I would suggest moving up the applicable dates and allowing counties to support their own legislation regarding this matter.

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

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