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January 27, 2020

TO: The Honorable Laura H. Thielen, Chair
Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Alice L. Lee 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 28, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2038, RELATING TO BOARD MEMBERS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to permit two or more members of a board to attend State of the City, State of the County, State of the State, or State of the Judiciary addresses, so long as the board members do not discuss board business and no commitment to vote is made or sought.

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. This measure would clarify that County Councilmembers, who are considered "board members" under the Sunshine Law, may jointly attend important public addresses, facilitating the communication of critical information to policymakers.
2. Allowing more Councilmembers to attend more public addresses would enable them to be better informed about the issues affecting their constituents.
3. This measure would foster better working relationships between Councilmembers and other local and State officials.

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