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Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Roy M. Takumi, Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 12, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1761, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to allow counties to regulate the installation of residential fire sprinkler 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. This bill recognizes that a prohibition on measures requiring the installation of fire sprinklers in a residential dwelling does not serve the public interest because fire sprinklers can be a reliable and effective way of suppressing residential fires in the early stages.
2. County policymakers understand their communities' needs and have the ability to consult with local fire chiefs and other experts. Therefore, it is appropriate to allow Maui County and other counties the ability to enact regulations related to the required installation of sprinklers in new one- and two-family homes.

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