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February 5, 2020

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
House Committee on Water, Land, and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2518, RELATING TO THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize the Director of Finance to issue general obligation bonds to the County of Maui for the upgrade of that county's R-1 water delivery systems and the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the upgrade of certain water reservoirs located in the forest watershed areas on Maui.

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. Water is a valued commodity and should not be disposed of without careful consideration.
2. Without increasing use of reclaimed water in the State, residents will encounter potable drinking water shortages caused by the overuse of potable drinking water for agricultural, landscaping, or firefighting purposes.
3. Using former plantation reservoirs to store reclaimed water will allow for easier access for agriculture and landscaping use for West Maui and will provide firefighters with efficient access to fresh water.

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

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