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January 25, 2022

TO: Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

DATE: January 25, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2018, RELATING TO MINIMUM WAGE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to increase the hourly minimum wage for certain employees incrementally to \$12 on October 1, 2022, \$15 on January 1, 2024, and \$18 on January 1, 2026.

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. It is in the interest of all Hawai'i to support Hawai'i's workforce and essential workers by increasing the minimum wage.
2. Increasing the State's minimum wage will help Hawai'i's economy by giving workers greater purchasing power in the local marketplace.
3. According to the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism, a single adult required an income of \$35,143 to achieve self-sufficiency in Hawai'i in 2018, while a single parent with one child required \$59,428. Yet, at the minimum wage of \$10.10 per hour, a full-time employee earns only \$21,008 annually.

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

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