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Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

February 23, 2022

TO: Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 23, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 2048, RELATING TO UNLAWFUL CHOP SHOP
ACTIVITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish the criminal offenses of unlawful chop shop activity in the first and second degrees, including providing for the forfeiture of property connected with related activity.

This measure is included in the Hawai'i State Association of Counties Legislative Package. Therefore, I offer this testimony on the Maui County Council's behalf.

The Maui County Council **SUPPORTS** this measure for the following reasons:

1. There is currently no state statute covering the criminal misconduct of chop shop activity, although numerous auto theft investigations have shown that chop shop activity was a central part of the criminal misconduct.
2. A "Crime in the U.S. 2019" report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Criminal Justice Information Services Division, Hawai'i had the third-highest motor vehicle theft rate in the nation.
3. In 2019 alone, the Maui Police Department reported 661 motor vehicle theft offenses and \$4,421,246 in stolen motor vehicle property.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **SUPPORTS** this measure.