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February 22, 2022

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 22, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 2618, SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish and fund an environmental investigative hotline pilot project through the Department of the Attorney General, Investigations Division, that will implement and manage an investigative hotline for Moloka'i residents to report environmental concerns on Moloka'i and have one full time investigator on the island of Moloka'i to investigate environmental concerns.

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. A full time employee is necessary to respond to environmentally hazardous activities in a timely manner to ensure the health and safety of the residents of Moloka'i.
2. Not having state department staff physically present to address a situation when a complaint is made incurs delays in response time and hampers the ability of a government inspector to witness possible violations and issue enforceable citations.
3. Having a multi-departmental investigative hotline offers residents a way to report concerns and violations to someone in a remote location.
4. The assignment of a trained investigator to rural areas who can communicate directly to state departments may save the state departments the unpredictable costs of travel and other related expenses.

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

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