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February 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
Senate Committee on Higher Education

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 14, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3340, RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
MAUI COLLEGE, MOLOKAI EDUCATION CENTER**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to support University of Hawaii, Maui College, Molokai Education Center, which is the only higher education institution on island, and preserves a space for students to pursue higher education goals.

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. University of Hawaii, Maui College, Molokai Education Center is nearing capacity as enrollment continues to increase, and this measure would allow more students on Molokai to pursue higher education on their home island.
2. This measure would relocate University of Hawaii, Maui College, Molokai Education Center from a low-lying area susceptible to sea-level rise.
3. This measure furthers several Maui County General Plan policies, including the following: "Improve partnerships that utilize the skills and talents at Hawai'i's colleges and universities to benefit the County." (Countywide Policy Plan); and "Support improvements in education training programs and internships at all levels to ensure a well-educated and well-trained workforce." (Molokai Island Community Plan).

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