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February 27, 2022

TO: Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 27, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1577 HD1, RELATING TO THE KAHO‘OLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to provide funding for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission, including two full-time equivalent permanent positions.

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. The Island of Kaho‘olawe provides significant cultural and historic importance to the native people of Hawai‘i and Maui County residents.
2. Due to extensive safety issues and ecological, archaeological, and other environmental concerns, specialized management is needed to effectively meet the unique challenge of addressing continued revitalization and appropriate use for the island.
3. This measure would appropriate funds to the Department of Land And Natural Resources for the Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission to effectively accomplish their work of restoring, preserving, and evaluating appropriate use of the island.

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