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March 1, 2023

TO: The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 2, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1398, HD1, RELATING TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow telecommunications and emergency dispatchers and similar employees to collectively bargain.

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. Emergency dispatchers are part of the critical infrastructure of the public-safety system.
2. Emergency dispatchers deal with stressful situations daily as they make split-second decisions that affect the public's safety and well-being.
3. This measure would recognize emergency dispatchers' importance and skill, allowing them to collectively bargain the pay and benefits that they rightfully deserve.

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