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March 29, 2023

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 31, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 612, HD2, SD1, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish an income tax credit for local food producers.

The Maui County Council adopted Resolution 23-43, "URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT AND ADOPT THE PRIORITY FOOD POLICIES RECOMMENDED BY THE TRANSFORMING HAWAII'S FOOD SYSTEMS TOGETHER INITIATIVE," in support of this measure. Therefore, I offer this testimony on the Council's behalf.

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

1. This measure will provide much-needed support to local farmers, ranchers, and fishers by helping to alleviate the high costs of food production they face.
2. This measure advances the following Maui County General Plan policy: "Assist farmers to help make Maui County more self-sufficient in food production."
3. This measure advances the goal of empowering farmers and supporting the production of local food in Hawai'i, as outlined in Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge and the Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations.

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