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January 26, 2024

TO: The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2205,
RELATING TO COMMERCIAL USE PERMITS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. Its purpose is to prohibit the Department of Land and Natural Resources from issuing commercial ocean use permit renewals that would cause nearshore water overcrowding or potential threats to the environment.

This measure is in the Maui County Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on the Council's behalf.

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

1. All operators of commercial vessels or water sports equipment must obtain a commercial use permit from the DLNR's Division of Ocean and Boating Recreation. The issuance and renewal of permits have led to a proliferation of commercial activity in harbors and nearshore waters, creating environmental risks.
2. Allowing the DLNR to deny permit renewals to protect the constitutional right to a clean and healthful environment, as proposed by this measure, will help to lessen the activity's impacts.

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