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February 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1839, HD1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would appropriate funds for monitoring of air quality for communities impacted by the Maui wildfires.

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. It advances the health and safety objective of protecting Maui County residents from health issues caused by air degradation from the 2023 wildfires and recovery efforts.
2. The House Environmental Remediation Working Group recommended funding and support to further ongoing monitoring, sampling, and testing activities in West Maui.
3. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine urge further research into the chemistry of urban wildfires and the harmful long-term health impacts to people in urban areas.
4. The World Health Organization concluded that when wildfires impact urban areas, the materials burned contain more toxic chemicals than from wildfires that consume wood and other natural material.

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