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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 HB1840, HD1, RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for water-quality monitoring and pollution-source detection.

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 from air and water degradation caused by the 2023 wildfires and recovery efforts.
2. This measure fulfills the House Environmental Remediation Working Group's recommendation to increase resources for water-quality monitoring and contaminant testing.
3. The entire Lahaina coastline is in the impact zone of water contamination because of runoff, debris, and contaminants. This measure will support much-needed testing on the coastal ecosystem for risks.
4. This measure promotes responsible environmental stewardship, which will be key to rebuilding West Maui.

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