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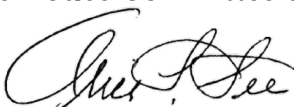
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February 5, 2024

TO: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land
The Honorable Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Labor & Government Operations

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1843, RELATING TO FIRE PROTECTION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure to establish the Office of the State Fire Marshal to direct statewide fire-protection efforts.

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. This bipartisan proposal emerges following the August 8, 2023, Lahaina wildfires, as a common-sense means of providing dedicated support for statewide wildfire prevention and protection that already exists in every other state across the nation.
2. The measure is an acknowledgment that rising global temperatures increase the risk of drought conditions and decreased water with which to combat fires. The centralized coordination the Fire Marshal would provide is a health and safety priority.
3. Maui has experienced firsthand the devastating effects to life, property, safety, and security of the recent wildfires. Creating a Fire Marshal position is a reasonable and cost-effective step that can be taken to increase safeguards and protect the State's residents and visitors.

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