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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 12, 2024

TO: The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services
The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Government Operations

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2324, RELATING TO FIRST RESPONDERS**

I **support** this measure which requires the State to share in the cost of county first responder personnel fulfilling state-imposed mandate programs or increased levels of service under existing programs.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, 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. As the County of Maui faces a shortage of health care workers, investment in the health care sector would improve prompt access to emergency care, health care programs and services in all communities.
2. It is forecasted that the County of Maui's population will continue to grow and age faster as our birth rate declines, warranting additional emergency services and State support.
3. Strengthening our partnership with the State to provide funding and to improve the timeliness of responses by first responder services should result in improved emergent outcomes for visitors and residents.

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