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February 1, 2024

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

The Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB2903, RELATING TO WILD-FIRE AFFECTED AREAS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which prohibits public entry into wildfire-affected areas for habitation until the Department of Health finds the area is safe.

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. This measure's objective is to ensure the public health and safety in wildfire-affected areas by ensuring habitation is allowed only when the Department of Health provides notice that the area is safe.
2. The measure also defines "wildfire-affected area" to include not only sites designated by the Environmental Protection Agency as toxic but also sites that are subject to any hazardous or fire debris removal program.

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

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