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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
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March 14, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental  
and Military Affairs  
  
The Honorable Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair, and  
Members of the Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1843,  
HD2, 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.