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March 20, 2024

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the
Arts

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 21, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SR139
AND SCR165, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE FEASIBILITY OF BRINGING OTHER
AIRLINES TO THE MOLOKAI AIRPORT**

I **support** these resolutions to request that the State Department of Transportation study the feasibility of bringing other airlines to the Molokai Airport.

I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support these resolutions for the following reasons:

1. Since January 2021, only one passenger airline has provided service to the general public out of Molokai Airport. The cost of plane tickets remains burdensome to many Molokai residents, who need to travel for work, medical appointments, and family.
2. The needs of Molokai residents are not being met by one operating air carrier that services the island, with ongoing disruptions because of travel delays and flight cancellations.
3. Because air travel is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Aviation Administration, cooperation between Federal, State, and County agencies may provide solutions to ensure residents have access to multiple air-travel options.

Thank you for your consideration.