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Mayor

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January 22, 2023

The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
and Members of the House Committee of Finance

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Yamashita and Members:

SUBJECT: 2023 Informational Briefing to the Senate Ways and Means Committee and House Finance Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an overview of the priorities of the County of Maui to the joint committee.

The County of Maui identifies four areas that are of greatest need for our citizens on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i and intends to support legislation that will offer availability of funding to assist with these critical areas:

1. **Water** – Developing new sources and efficiently allocating and delivering current water resources;
2. **Housing** – For kama'āina families and all tiers of income households, including low- and middle-class families, in order to save our middle class and those who have demonstrated vested interest and contribution to our community. There are locations already identified in south, west, and central Maui that would be tremendous opportunities;
3. **Infrastructure** – In all forms including roads such as the long-standing Kihei, North-South Maui Collector Road project and the bypass road to Lahaina (these projects will make our community's ingress and egress safer especially during fires, high tides and floods),

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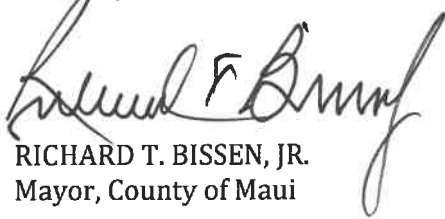
broadband that would offer needed connectivity services to Moloka`i, Lāna`i and rural East Maui, and wastewater infrastructure that encompass projects in Central Maui;

4. **Economic Diversity** – Developing a mix of industries to support stability of our local economy including the marketing and processing of axis deer products, and increasing processing, storage, and delivery sites for agricultural products. Securing opportunities to increase remote technology will also contribute to diversification.

My administration took office a mere three weeks ago, however over the course of several months during the past year I have had the benefit of conducting eleven community workshops throughout Maui, Moloka`i, and Lāna`i – learning firsthand from discussions and hundreds of noted comments what our citizens identify as vital to their ability to thrive and what challenges they and their families face. I am committed to serving our citizens by seeking opportunities that will address existing and growing needs.

I look forward to working with you during this legislative session and beyond. I appreciate your interest in the priorities of the County of Maui and the diligent efforts of your committee and the Legislature. I firmly believe that together we can offer our citizens and their families a future they deserve.

Sincerely,



RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor, County of Maui