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February 17, 2009

TO: Honorable Marcus Oshiro, Chair  
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Danny A. Mateo   
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 18, 2009; TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1218,  
RELATING TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate \$50,000,000 in general obligation bond funds for State capital improvement projects within each county; provided that no funds shall be expended unless the relevant county appropriates \$50,000,000 for county improvement projects.

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 offer the following comments:

1. The matter of capital improvements to county infrastructure and facilities is clearly a county issue and not within the State's jurisdiction. Requiring that each county appropriate at least \$50,000,000 in county funds for improvements to county infrastructure and facilities before the State expends \$50,000,000 to improve State infrastructure and facilities usurps County authority and repudiates home rule principles, without justification.
2. Rather than restricting the counties in allocating their resources, the Legislature would be well served to truly partner with the counties for the benefit of our shared constituents to effectively address the economic crisis.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony.

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