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COUNTY COUNCIL

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March 20, 2024

TO: The Honorable Chris Todd, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 21, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HR116 AND HCR135, REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO STUDY AND RECOMMEND SOLUTIONS TO RESOLVE SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES CAUSED BY BARGE DELAYS TO LĀNAʻI**

I **support** these resolutions to request that the State Department of Transportation recommend solutions to address the supply-chain issues caused by delays in the delivery of barged goods to Lānaʻi.

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. Lānaʻi suffers from expensive transportation costs for freight and goods because of limited sea-barge and air-freight options compared to other Hawaiian Islands.
2. Shipping firm Young Brothers Hawaii has experienced arrival delays at Kaumālapaʻu Harbor, Lānaʻi's primary commercial harbor, because of poor weather, unfavorable ocean conditions, and other factors.
3. Improving barge services is essential for economic development. The delivery of food and other essential goods provides a lifeline to Lānaʻi's grocery stores and local businesses.

Thank you for your consideration.