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August 1, 2024

Committee Chair Nohealani U'u Hodgins  
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee  
Council of the County of Maui

Re: Resolution 24-129, Appointment of Gina M. Young as Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority

Dear Chair Hodgins and GREAT Committee Members:

I write to you in support of Gina M. Young's appointment as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

I have known Ms. Young for almost twenty years, beginning when Gina and I worked together on the Maui Regional Board of the Hawaii Health System Corporation, and continuing through her tenure working at the County of Maui Department of Planning, and her time as a member and President of the Kula Community Association. Gina has also provided assistance on various issues involving the Council while an assistant in Council Member Sinenci's office.

I worked most closely with Ms. Young on the Maui Regional Board, while I was Chairman of the Maui Regional Board. Gina and I worked with members of the Board and CEO Wesley Lo as part of our review of the operation of Maui Memorial Hospital, Kula Hospital and Lanai Hospital. We actively reviewed and analyzed the budgets for the operations of the Maui Region, which included operations, capital improvements, and related expenses. Gina and I were also on the Audit Committee for the Maui Regional Board, and in such capacity, met with auditors to review the accounting practices and procedures of the Maui Region. I have known Ms. Young to be a hard worker, providing diligent review and recommendations through difficult and challenging issues. Her background, experience and legal skills provide her the necessary tools to be an excellent manager and director.

I believe Ms. Young has developed the acumen necessary to be an engaged and diligent Director, which comes from her years of experience working within the Maui community. I know that she will be a valuable resource for the East Maui Regional Water Authority. Gina's

Council Member Nohelani U'u Hodgins, Chair  
August 1, 2024  
Page 2

work ethic, her experience with Maui County and the State of Hawaii government, and comprehensive skills make her an excellent candidate for this position and will provide the community of Maui with the necessary expertise and guidance required for this position.

I have the utmost respect for Ms. Young as a friend and colleague and strongly support her appointment.

I thank you in advance for your support of Gina M. Young and would ask that you honor the unanimous decision by the East Maui Regional Community Water Authority Board to appoint her as the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority and confirm Resolution 24-129.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Clay Sutherland', with a stylized, flowing script.

R. Clay Sutherland

## Great Committee

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**From:** R. Clay Sutherland <clay@rclaysutherland.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 1, 2024 2:58 PM  
**To:** Great Committee  
**Subject:** Resolution 24-129  
**Attachments:** Ltr-Hodgins-Gina Young-20240801.pdf

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Attached is my letter in support of Gina M. Young for the Director of the East Maui Regional Water Authority.

Thank you, Clay

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