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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

P.O. Box 69
Kihei, HI 96753
April 5, 2016

Budget & Finance Committee
200 S. High St. 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96753

RE: Re-pricing of the Clerk positions

I support the clerks of Maui County in their bid to have their wages made equal to other entry level jobs within the public sector. Studies have shown that they make \$800 less than many positions. Not only does this negatively affect their personal well-being but it also impacts the welfare of their family.

The wages are not commensurate to the skills that are required for the clerical positions. As an example, a job description requires the ability to create and maintain a spreadsheet. This is just one example of a skill that is not easily executed and that requires knowledge and training.

When a position is lost, it affects six other jobs in a community. The public worker wages help support in part six others jobs, such as the restaurant worker, the grocery clerk, and other service providers. When a clerk is well paid, the rest of the community will benefit as well by their increased ability to pay for goods and services.

Whether a person is the main wage earner of the household or not, any income into the household is a benefit to the children. Historically, we know that the clerical positions are held by women, making gender equity another goal to be attained by the re-pricing.

As you consider the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, please include \$4 million for the re-pricing of the clerical positions. It will be an investment in the functioning of Maui County and a gift to all citizens knowing that Maui is *no ka oi* in how they support the workers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request for the re-pricing of the clerical positions of Maui County.

Respectfully submitted:



Sue Kiang
879-0556