GET Committee

January 16, 2020

Dear Chair Molina and Members:

Thank you for scheduling a hearing on GET-40 and for considering the proposed changes therein.

The Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC) has administrative responsibility/support for: Animal Control Board, Commission on Children and Youth, Commission on Persons with Disabilities, and Council on Aging.

While most Board and Commission members take their volunteer roles very seriously, many of these citizens are extremely busy and have multiple work, familial, and community obligations they want to fulfill in addition. I believe that being clear about attendance expectations will help citizens determine whether or not this is the right time for their participation on County Boards and Commissions. The County staff associated with the Boards and Commissions have had to cancel meetings at the last minute if quorum is not established, and by that time, Board/Commission members from Moloka`i, Lana`i , Hana and Lahaina may have already left their homes. Such occurrences costs the County and the members time and money.

With clearly articulated expectations (as proposed in GET-40), I believe that volunteer Board and Commission members will be better prepared for their roles and responsibilities. Departments such as DHHC will be better able to support the work of Boards and Commissions, and the community will ultimately benefit from a more efficient and efficacious process.

Thank you very much for considering this feedback from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns. We stand in strong support of this proposal.

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