

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Keʻena O Ka Meia COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui August 11, 2017

Honorable Elle Cochran, Chair Infrastructure and Environmental Management Committee County of Maui 200 South High Street Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Cochran:

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY REGARDING IEM-33

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and input on the current legislation that is before your committee for consideration. My position regarding the mining of sand and its subsequent removal from Maui County has been made clear. I agree that we must take steps to protect this critical and finite resource. We must also ensure that areas where there is cultural and ancestral significance are protected.

The purpose of my testimony this afternoon is to caution the committee on the possible unintended consequences that must be considered prior to an ordinance moving forward. My concerns are focused on the impact this ordinance may have on construction projects in both the private and public sector. One scenario that comes to mind is the construction of a new water or sewer line and the impact of not being able to move the extracted material to an offsite location. Where would we store the material? What would we do with the extracted material once the line is installed? What if the extracted material was substandard and not useable at the location?

This restriction, if not addressed, would significantly increase the cost and complexity of construction and, ultimately, increase the taxpayer funding needed to support these projects. Additionally, I am concerned with the impact this may have on our ability to encourage the development of workforce and affordable housing throughout Maui County. Those wanting to develop these types of housing may now be faced with additional costs that will either be passed on to potential homeowners or may cause projects to be put on hold.

Based on what I've presented here, I am humbly requesting that you consider the impact an ordinance as broad as what is currently being proposed may have throughout our community and on many levels. I would be more than happy to make myself and the departments available to you and your committee to ensure that these potential unintended consequences are addressed prior to legislation moving forward.

Best regards,

ALAN M. ARAKAWA, MAYOR

County of Maui