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February 4, 2020

TO: Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair  
Senate Committee on Transportation

FROM: Michael J. Molina  
Councilmember

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "mjm", positioned to the right of the "FROM:" field.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB  
2687, RELATING TO TAXATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to increase the rental motor vehicle surcharge tax from \$5 to \$8 per day, or any portion of a day that a rental motor vehicle is rented or leased, in counties experiencing a high number of motor vehicle rentals, and with a resident population of more than 125,000 but less than 195,000. The revenue generated will be used to fund county projects that increase highway capacity and relieve traffic congestion.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Road congestion on Maui, especially in high tourist locations, such as South, West and North Maui have reached serious levels causing extreme traffic delays and contributing to increased stress levels of motorist.
2. The State Department of Transportation is reviewing various by-pass or relief roads to assist with reducing traffic congestion in Maui County. The additional funding proposed in this legislation will assist in the counties ability to provide alternative routes to address traffic issues.
3. As the Maui County Council's Makawao, Paia, Haiku representative, the Paia By-Pass is a number one priority for my North Shore constituents and a number four priority for the State DOT.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

CM:MHP:outgoing:leg20\_SB2687\_rental\_subsidy:grs