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LATE

April 1, 2013

TO: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Gladys C. Baisa 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 1, 2013; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 750, SD2, HD1,
RELATING TO DIGITAL MEDIA INFRASTRUCTURE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish a media infrastructure project tax credit, with certain conditions, for qualified media projects in West Oahu or on the most populous island in a county with a population between 100,000 and 175,000.

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. The film, television, and other creative arts industries in Hawaii are important components of a diversified economy. These industries attract large amounts of money, create much-needed jobs, and, with the proper incentives, provide long-term sustainable economic activity.
2. High production costs and limited infrastructure deter television and film productions from coming to Hawaii. Enhanced tax incentive programs will offset these obstacles, and attract more film and television productions to Hawaii.
3. Enactment of the bill will encourage growth of the film industry, thereby stimulating the economy, providing jobs for local people, and generating increased tax revenues.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.