COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 21, 2018

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
        Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Riki Hokama
        Councilmember

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2018; TESTIMONY IN <u>OPPOSITION</u> TO
SB 2296, RELATING TO METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** to this measure. The purpose of this bill is to require that membership of each metropolitan planning organization ("MPO") include at least one member of the senate and one member of the house of representatives from that metropolitan planning area.

The Maui MPO was established in February 2016 by Ordinance 4293. The Maui MPO Policy Board is composed of seven voting members: three councilmembers; the County Directors of Planning, Public Works, and Transportation; and the State Director of Transportation.

I **oppose** this measure for the following reasons:

1.   The Maui MPO held its first meeting in May 2016. After almost two years of existence, SB 2296 is introduced to require state legislators be included in the area MPO. The State should allow the Maui MPO a few more years to work on its projects and prove its effectiveness before deciding that changes must be made to the policy board.

2.   The State Director of Transportation is a member of the MPO and represents the State's position in the business of the Maui MPO. Adding state legislative officials is an unnecessary oversight and premature at this time. The Maui MPO has not been allowed the time to prove itself. Furthermore, the Maui MPO focuses on work that is beneficial to the residents of the County of Maui. Therefore, County officials should make up the majority of the MPO.

For the foregoing reasons, I **oppose** this measure.

sb2296_jgk