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March 25, 2019

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair
Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and Committee Members:

RE: HCR 140/HR 129 Relating to the Construction of a Boat Ramp in the Puna District

Thank you for this opportunity to provide supportive comments on HCR 140 and HR 129. These measures would ask the Department of Land and Natural Resources to do a feasibility and cost study as a necessary first step toward the development of a new boat ramp as a replacement for the Pohoiki Boat Ramp in lower Puna.

Prior to the extensive sand deposits laid down during the recent Kilauea eruption, the Pohoiki Boat Ramp played a critical public role in affording ocean access for commercial and recreational fishing and sightseeing boats. Today, access is completely blocked and the feasibility of dredging the sand to restore the boat ramp appears to be diminishing, as currents and waves are depositing an additional 10 yards of sand per week with projections that by the end of the year there may be no surf conditions at the site.

Commercial fishers are now forced to utilize a boat ramp in Hilo, which is approximately 33 miles, and an hour-long drive, from Pohoiki, thus increasing the time and cost for each trip and adding to the economic losses experienced. These hardworking residents are eager to have the State restore access to waters along the Puna district's prolific and valued fishing grounds.

Your support of HCR 140/ HR 129 would be sincerely appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR