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April 2, 2019

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Dear Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 759, SD2, HD1 Relating to Agriculture (Agricultural Theft)

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 759, SD2, HD1.

For about a year, our Prosecuting Attorney's office has had an investigator working on agricultural crimes, and we have received positive comments from the agriculture community about his work. The preamble of this bill does a good job of explaining the vulnerabilities agriculture has to theft and vandalism, and our news media has documented farmers who have gone out of business because of their losses.

In order to continue the program, state funding is both desirable and appropriate. I hope you will act favorably on SB 759, SD2, HD1, and consider increasing funding to accommodate the proposed expansion of the program to Maui.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR