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COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI DISASTER, RESILIENCE, INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, AND
PLANNING COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 17, 2025 — 3:00 P.M.

UluPono Initiative supports Resolution 23-163, Relating to Parking for Electric Vehicles.

Dear Chair Paltin and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

UluPono supports Resolution 23-163, which refers to the Planning Commissions a Proposed Bill Relating to Parking for Electric Vehicles.

Electric vehicles (EVs) are a critical part of our climate and transportation energy future:

- **EVs provide immediate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions.** EVs produce zero emissions at the tailpipe, and even when full lifecycle emissions (from manufacturing through disposal) are considered, EV emissions are approximately 34 percent lower than internal combustion engine vehicles.¹ Here in Hawai'i, they become cleaner every year through our commitment and progress towards 100% clean energy. Transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions in Hawai'i. By facilitating the transition to EVs through improved charging infrastructure, Bill 126 plays a vital role in reducing these emissions. This measure will help Maui reduce carbon emissions and contribute to the global fight against climate change.
- **EVs are prime for market acceleration from public support.** Hawai'i has more EVs per capita than any other state besides California, but declining availability of charging infrastructure. While we have among the highest EV adoption rates in the country per capita, we remain among the worst in terms of public EV charging.² As the adoption of EVs increases, so does the need for accessible and reliable charging infrastructure. By requiring EV charging stations in new developments, Bill 126 directly addresses "charging anxiety" among EV owners, ensuring that they have convenient access to charging facilities across the county. This is particularly important in residential areas like apartments and

¹ <https://yaleclimateconnections.org/2024/01/electric-vehicles-use-half-the-energy-of-gas-powered-vehicles/>

² <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/13/why-hawaii-is-becoming-a-leader-in-us-ev-adoption.html>,
<https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2022/05/18/hawaii-struggles-keep-up-with-demand-electric-vehicle-charging-stations-help-is-way/>

condominiums, where residents may not have access to home charging.

- **EVs can alleviate Hawai'i's high cost of living.** The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that Hawai'i drivers can save up to \$1,600 per year by switching to an electric vehicle.³ Bill 126 helps make charging more accessible and thus allows consumers to opt into EVs more readily.
- **EVs help enhance Energy Resilience:** The integration of more EVs and charging stations also supports energy resilience in Maui. EVs can potentially serve as mobile energy storage units, which can be particularly valuable during emergencies or grid disruptions. By expanding EV infrastructure, Maui is not only advancing clean energy goals but also enhancing its overall energy security.”

Although this measure does not directly update the table “Minimum number of off-street parking spaces,” we would be remiss if we did not point out that these parking mandates do hurt the County’s affordable housing and climate goals by requiring car infrastructure with development regardless of need or parking demand. In 2020, UluPono Initiative’s *The Costs of Parking in Hawai'i* report outlined how the cost to build an on-grade parking stall in Maui ranged from \$15,000 to \$23,200; podium-style jumps to \$59,900.⁴ As noted by Housing for Hawai'i’s Future, in making driving more affordable and likely through subsidization of parking, it increases the costs of building and rebuilding housing and communities.⁵

As our energy issues become more complex and challenging, we appreciate the Council’s efforts to look at policies that support clean ground transportation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

³ [https://www.energy.gov/policy/articles/save-2200-year-driving-electric-vehicle#:~:text=Save%20Up%20to%20\\$2%2C200%20a,Electric%20Vehicle%20%7C%20Department%20of%20Energy](https://www.energy.gov/policy/articles/save-2200-year-driving-electric-vehicle#:~:text=Save%20Up%20to%20$2%2C200%20a,Electric%20Vehicle%20%7C%20Department%20of%20Energy)

⁴ <https://ulupono.com/media/ivcfs2pu/the-cost-of-parking-in-hawaii-report-2020-08.pdf?sha=27ef1b3a>

⁵ <https://www.hawaiisfuture.org/resources/policy-brief-1-minimum-parking-requirements?rq=parking>