

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tasha Kama
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

February 6, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Stanley Chang, Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Housing

The Honorable Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair,
and Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

FROM: Alice L. Lee, Chair
Maui County Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 1617, RELATING TO HOMELESSNESS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure authorizes the Hawaii public housing authority to establish a kauhale program to provide housing and services to individuals and families who are unsheltered.

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 creation of kauhale villages will alleviate Hawaii's housing crisis by providing shelter and social services to those who need them.
2. This measure enables kauhale villages to be built expeditiously by granting generous permitting exemptions.
3. This measure continues exemptions for low-income rental units, tiny homes, and kauhale constructed under the Governor's 2015 and 2018 proclamations on homelessness.

For these reasons, I **support** this measure.

ocs:proj:legis:23legis:23testimony:sb1617_paf23-007(19)_alkl