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March 14, 2023

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 16, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1054, HD2, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish the Rental Deposit Loan Program and Rental Deposit Loan Program Revolving Fund to help tenants obtain loans for security deposits.

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. Lack of affordable housing is the biggest barrier for employers to recruit and retain skilled workers and is the reason many Hawai'i residents are migrating to the Continental United States.
2. The Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan (2021) identified rental security deposits as a barrier to housing. The measure will help address the barrier by assisting those earning between 80 percent and 120 percent of the area median income to obtain zero percent interest loans for security deposits.
3. This measure advances the Maui County General Plan objective to "reduce the affordable housing deficit for residents."

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