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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

March 15, 2023

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Housing
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 17, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 920, HD1, RELATING TO THE HAWAII STATE BUILDING CODE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow county councils to adopt a county building code distinct from the State building codes and applicable only to single-family dwellings, additional dwelling units, duplexes, and non-commercial structures that have no more than a certain square footage of living area.

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 measure will provide more flexibility to counties to customize regulations for their unique local character. It will allow our County the ability to more easily explore policies that will help increase our housing inventory.
2. This measure will help the County of Maui fulfill the following General Plan policy: "Require the incorporation of locally appropriate energy-saving and green building design concepts in all new developments by providing energy-sufficient urban design guidelines and amendments to the Building Code."

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