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January 24, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 25, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2015,
RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure amends the priorities for use of the Rental Housing Revolving Fund.

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. This measure prioritizes the use of Rental Housing Revolving Fund money to State or county-owned projects as well as to projects owned by organizations obliged to use all financial surplus generated by the project to construct more housing.
2. This measure will help ensure that taxpayer dollars will be used for publicly owned projects and private projects that recycle taxpayer funding, rather than projects owned by private entities for their own benefit.
3. Affordable housing must be a priority if Maui County and the rest of the State are to maintain our residents, workforce, and quality of life. Finding ways to expand housing opportunities can be accomplished if we work together and put all of our available resources to use. This measure, which enables the development of much-needed rental housing, makes progress toward that goal.

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

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