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January 22, 2024

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

F R O M: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 25, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB
2027, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. This measure establishes the Housing Accountability Act to restrict any county from disapproving or imposing certain conditions on a housing development project or emergency shelter unless the county meets certain requirements.

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 draws an appropriate balance between two important principles: expediting the development of much-needed housing and respecting the counties' traditional land-use authority.
2. The criteria restricting the counties' ability to deny a housing development or emergency shelter are sensible and protect against unreasonable "not in my back yard" opposition.
3. If this measure passes the counties would have an additional tool to ensure critical housing projects are not denied due to arbitrary reasons.

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

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