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January 29, 2024

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 30, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2870,  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT  
CORPORATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish a working group to identify existing mixed-use developments in the County of Maui that could be acquired by the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for affordable housing and commercial rental leases.

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. Affordable housing for those who lost their homes and commercial space for those who lost their businesses are both sorely needed as a result of the August 2023 Maui wildfires. By acquiring mixed-use space, HHFDC can assist residents and business owners simultaneously.
2. While supporting new developments is vital, acquiring existing developments will allow HHFDC to address this need in a more expeditious manner.

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