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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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January 31, 2024

TO: The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and
Tourism
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 FEBRUARY 2, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB2919, RELATING TO PROPERTY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would:

- expand the counties' zoning authority,
- authorize the counties to regulate online hosting platforms for transient accommodations, and
- expand the scope of the transient accommodations tax law to include certain shelters and vehicles with sleeping accommodations.

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 increased prevalence of online hosting platforms that offer transient accommodation rentals has posed challenges to monitoring and regulating their operations and collecting associated tax revenue.
2. Without the ability to regulate these hosting platforms, the County does not have the adequate authority to guarantee the health and safety procedures that are required to protect consumers.

3. Transient accommodations in vehicles, such as campervans, have been on the rise, but the County has limited ability to regulate their use or tax them appropriately.
4. Land-use decisions are best made at the county level, where the councils are able to make policy decisions that balance competing interests while responding to constituents' concerns. I am confident the counties will prudently exercise their authority under this measure. I do not believe a prohibition or moratorium on transient accommodations is warranted, and I would not seek to impose them. All forms of transient accommodations provide revenue to the State and counties.

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