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February 24, 2024

TO: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and
Members of the Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1808, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure, which would authorize the counties to exercise the same powers as the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation for mixed-use developments.

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 would provide opportunities for counties to expand our capacity to develop new units and rehabilitate existing housing units to address housing shortages and will likely have a positive impact on housing affordability.
2. The additional option given to the counties to develop mixed-use projects will be beneficial in securing financing and in ensuring long term sustainability of the created housing.
3. Providing the counties with the same development authority as Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation may attract more public-private partnerships for affordable housing and other beneficial development.

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