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February 22, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1837, HD1, RELATING TO SCHOOL SAFETY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure to promote planning for evacuation of public schools in an emergency. 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 bipartisan proposal is a well-considered recommendation of the Schools Working Group from the House of Representatives' Lahaina Wildfire Interim Working Groups.
2. The Schools Working Group's "Finding 1: School Evacuation Plans" states: "One of the most prominent areas of concern for the Working Group—one shared by West Maui community members—is the adequacy of evacuation plans in place and the need for such plans to be rehearsed . . .".
3. Requiring the Department of Education to collaborate with the Department of Transportation in the creation of individualized school-evacuation plans will ensure efficiency and public safety.

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

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