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February 27, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 28, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1988, HD1, RELATING TO COUNTY HOUSING POWERS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure to allow counties to plan, develop, construct, finance, and provide mixed-use and other housing projects.

I provide this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I **support** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Providing mixed-use and other housing projects supports the availability of affordable housing and benefits local residents and local businesses.
2. Allowing counties more authority throughout the housing process will allow them to be more effective. County councils are most familiar with their communities' needs and can make policy decisions that balance competing interests.
3. Affordable housing must be a priority if Maui County and the rest of the State are to maintain our residents, workforce, and quality of life. Finding ways to expand housing opportunities can be accomplished if we work together and put all of our available resources to use. This measure makes progress toward that goal.

Thank you for your consideration.

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