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February 12, 2024

TO: The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Housing
The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Health & Homelessness

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

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

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 14, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB2326, RELATING TO OHANA ZONES**

I **support** this measure to appropriate funds to the Governor for the Ohana Zones Pilot Program.

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. As stated in Act 209, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, the goal of the Ohana Zones Pilot Program is to improve the health and well-being of individuals experiencing homelessness and provide individuals experiencing homelessness with needed services. During the Coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, the program enabled the State and counties to be more nimble in their response and quickly add shelter capacity.
2. The need for the flexibility and innovation provided by the Ohana Zones Pilot Program is especially critical given housing's rising costs and decreased inventory.
3. Appropriate levels of funding for this program can allow the program to broaden its reach. I would also ask that the Legislature explore ways in which the program can assist with the transitional needs of Maui wildfire victims.

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