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January 29, 2024

TO: The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 30, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2042, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to require the counties to grant building permits within 60 days of an application being filed if the application is stamped and certified by a duly licensed structural, civil, electrical, or mechanical engineer and architect.

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 time it takes developers to obtain the necessary permits to build single-family and multi-family housing projects is a significant roadblock to increasing our housing capacity. The average time it takes to obtain a building permit in Maui County is 300 days. This measure would reduce that time to 60 days if certification requirements are met.
2. Other municipalities around the country place the responsibility of code compliance on project design professionals and contractors. Receiving the appropriate certifications before permit applications are submitted is a first step to shifting that responsibility here in Hawai'i.

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