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David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 1, 2024

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF APRIL 2, 2024; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2337,
SD2, HD1, RELATING TO HOUSING**

I **support** this measure to 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. It 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. It would also support transit-oriented development, such as the Ka'ahumanu Ave Community Corridor and the West Maui Community Corridor.
4. Providing the counties with the same development authority as Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation may attract more public-private partnerships for affordable housing.

Thank you for your consideration.