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January 27, 2020

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 28, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2279, RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to extend the deadlines for (a) the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation ("HHFDC") to acquire Front Street Apartments, and (b) the Leali'i affordable housing project to obtain land use approvals.

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. This measure would help support the availability of much-needed affordable rental housing units in Maui County, particularly on the west side of Maui island.
2. The Front Street Apartments extension is required due to a pending lawsuit beyond HHFDC's control.
3. The Leali'i affordable housing project requires a modest extension of only two months.

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