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February 3, 2020

TO: The Honorable Ryan I. Yamane, Chair
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 5, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2512, RELATING TO HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to: 1) authorize Department of Land and Natural Resources to delegate to qualified archaeologists employed by the counties the authority to perform reviews of proposed projects under the historic preservation program, under certain conditions; 2) provide that proposed projects under the program are deemed automatically approved if the archaeological review is not completed within 30 calendar days; and 3) grant challenges to an archaeological review an expedited hearing before the Supreme Court.

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. Section 6E-42, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, plays an essential role in the protection and management of the State's historic places, burial sites, and aviation artifacts. Section 6E-42 requires agencies and officers of the State and its subdivisions, prior to project approval, to submit for review by the Department of Land and Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Division all projects that may affect historic properties.
2. Many affordable-housing projects are delayed because of the State Historic Preservation Division's inability to efficiently and effectively provide necessary reviews to ensure compliance with State historic preservation law.
3. I support this measure because it authorizes the counties to employ qualified archaeologists to perform necessary reviews under Chapter 6E, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

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4. I support this bill because it ensures compliance with State preservation law while helping to eliminate delay of affordable-housing projects.

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

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