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February 18, 2020

TO: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2020; TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO SB 2037, RELATING TO HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **opposition** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to restrict any county from disapproving or imposing certain conditions on a housing-development project for housing or an emergency shelter unless the county meets certain requirements.

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 oppose this measure for the following reasons:

1. While I support the goal of this bill to provide additional affordable housing and emergency shelters, this measure would create substantial administrative, and associated financial, burdens on Maui County.
2. This measure would significantly limit county authority and discretion when considering proposed housing-development projects. The County Council reviews proposed housing projects on a case-by-case basis, during which it evaluates and weighs possible project impacts with public input, environmental concerns, and the overall benefit and cost to the County.

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

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