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February 7, 2021

TO: Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

DATE: February 9, 2021

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 247, RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL LANDS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to ensure Condominium Property Regime projects within the Agricultural District are used for agricultural purposes.

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 measure appropriately recognizes the need for designated land to be used for agricultural purposes and the need for locally grown produce.
2. This measure responsibly implements the State Office of Planning's advice in its study of subdivision and CPRs on agricultural lands in accordance with Act 278 (2019).
3. Maintaining and expanding our agricultural lands help ensure food resilience, consistent with the State's "Increased Food Security and Food Self-Sufficiency Strategy."

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