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February 1, 2022

TO: Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Chair  
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: February 1, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF HB 1917, RELATING TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to indefinitely extend the deadline for the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation to renegotiate an existing, or issue a new, ground lease for the Front Street Apartments affordable housing project before the corporation's requirement to initiate condemnation proceedings is triggered.

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 indefinitely extend the deadline for the Front Street Apartment affordable housing project and help support the availability of affordable rental housing in Maui County.
2. There is a severe shortage of affordable housing in Maui County, particularly in the western part of the Island of Maui.
3. A retroactive extension of the December 31, 2021, deadline is necessary to ensure fairness and legal compliance.

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

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