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February 10, 2022

TO: Honorable Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 10, 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 aforementioned deadline and help ensure the continued availability of affordable rental housing in Maui county at the Front Street Apartments in Lahaina.

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 indefinitely extends 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.
2. Maui County has a severe shortage of affordable rental housing, especially in the western part of the island of Maui.
3. Front Street Apartments in Lahaina provides 142 rental units.

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

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