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April 2, 2022

TO: Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: April 2, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR HB 1436, HD1, SD1 RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to give counties authority to use the transfer of development rights to protect lands at risk from sea-level rise, coastal erosion, storm surge, or flooding.

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. Rising sea levels continue to pose a threat throughout the State, eroding beaches and damaging habitat, ecological processes, and public property.
2. This measure authorizes counties to use the transfer of development rights to help protect areas at risk of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, storm surge, or flooding, allowing the counties to better direct development away from at-risk coastal areas.
3. Transferring development rights would help counties reduce property losses and protect lands that are vulnerable to the impacts and hazards caused by climate change from development, which could result in long-term economic and financial benefits.
4. The authority granted by this measure would help the County of Maui fulfill the General Plan's directive to "restrict development in areas that are prone to natural hazards, disasters, or sea-level rise."

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

Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz
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