

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.


Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 18, 2026

TO: The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

The Honorable Stanley Chang, Chair
Senate Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 19, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1718, HD1, RELATING TO HOUSING**

I **support** this measure to repeal the sunset date of Act 45, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2024, thereby making permanent the authority of the counties to share in facilitating the development, construction, financing, refinancing, or other provision of mixed-use developments, including low- and moderate-income housing projects, and issue county bonds for this purpose.

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. Removing the sunset provision will continue to provide opportunities for counties to expand their capacity to create and rehabilitate housing units to address housing shortages.
2. Extending this authority is crucial for advancing significant projects, including the Ka'ahumanu Avenue Community Corridor and the West Maui Community Corridor, both of which aim to increase affordable housing options in key areas.
3. Counties having the same development authority as the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation may foster more public-private collaborations that can accelerate affordable housing development.

Thank you for your consideration.