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March 17, 2026

TO: The Honorable Luke A. Evslin, Chair
House Committee on Housing

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 18, 2026; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3219, PROPOSING AMENDMENTS TO ARTICLE VII, SECTIONS 12 AND 13, OF THE HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION**

I support this measure to propose amendments to the Hawai'i State Constitution to authorize the Legislature to empower the counties to issue housing infrastructure growth bonds and exclude those bonds from county debt limit calculations.

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. Housing infrastructure growth bonds would allow counties to pledge a portion of future growth in property tax revenues within designated districts to fund infrastructure without introducing new taxes, increasing tax rates, or jeopardizing bonding capacity for other essential services.
2. The proposed constitutional amendment would promote housing development in the State by providing counties with an optional financing tool to advance housing infrastructure development.
3. The measure would strengthen county fiscal flexibility, respect home rule authority, and support State and county efforts to responsibly increase housing supply.

Thank you for your consideration.