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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
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Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
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Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING
April 15, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

In consideration of
HCR 131
URGING THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (HHFDC) TO DEVELOP A TEN-YEAR PLAN TO SATISFY HAWAII'S HOUSING DEMAND.

Chair Chang, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and members of the Committee:

Recognizing the severe housing shortage in Hawaii, HHFDC **offers the following comments** on HCR 131.

HHFDC recognizes that there is a severe housing shortage in Hawaii.

We submit that numerous systemic barriers which impede housing development in Hawaii should be addressed in advance of the preparation of any reasonably implementable plan to accelerate production in the state. These factors include insufficient infrastructure; restrictive land use and zoning policies; lengthy and complex regulatory processes; community opposition; and high construction and financing costs.

Through the Office of the Governor, the State of Hawaii recently applied for $9.9 million in Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing (PRO Housing) grant funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to address several of the aforementioned factors. HHFDC believes such an effort is necessary to lay the groundwork before a realistic plan to accelerate housing production is developed and implemented.

We will continue to identify and address barriers that impede the development of affordable housing, however, for the reasons stated above, we are unable to, 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2025, submit to the Legislature a 10-year plan to satisfy the state's enormous unmet housing demand.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.