

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



DEAN MINAKAMI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
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Statement of
DEAN MINAKAMI
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 27, 2025 at 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

In consideration of
S.B. 378
RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Committee.

HHFDC **supports** SB 378, which establishes a working group within the Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation (HHFDC) to identify existing mixed-use developments in Maui County that could be acquired by HHFDC for use as affordable housing and commercial rental leases. It also requires a report to the Legislature.

We believe that this proposal has the potential to expand the supply of affordable housing within mixed-use developments in Maui County.

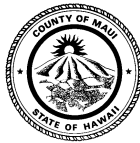
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
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February 24, 2025

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB378, RELATING TO THE HAWAII HOUSING FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

I **support** this measure to establish a working group within the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation to identify mixed-use developments in Maui County that could be acquired for affordable housing and commercial rental leases.

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. Following the 2023 Maui wildfires, there is an urgent need to develop housing in Maui County to ensure an adequate housing inventory for displaced residents and the broader community.
2. Mixed-use developments allow residents to live near where they work and access essential services, helping to create vibrant, sustainable communities while reducing traffic congestion.
3. Establishing a working group ensures a coordinated approach to identifying viable properties, maximizing efficiency in housing development efforts, and leveraging State resources.

Thank you for your consideration.