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January 27, 2020

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Senator Stanley Chang, Chair
Senator Dru Mamo Kanuha, Vice Chair
Committee on Housing

Dear Chairs Nishihara and Chang, Vice Chairs Wakai and Kanuha, and Committee Members:

RE: **SB 2172, Relating to Housing Development**

Every elected official that I know of wants to increase our stock of affordable housing, and one way to do that is to make it easier for housing projects, developed by the Hawai'i Housing Finance and Development Corporation, to move expeditiously when they have proposals in the pipeline. SB 2172 would result in significant streamlining of permit approvals for affordable housing projects, and I urge you to give this bill a favorable vote.

I would suggest that the language amending 201H-38 (3) (B) might be improved by making explicit that the County Councils have the authority to approve a district boundary amendment for 15 acre parcels or less. As currently worded, 201H-38 (3) (B) seems to require that the amendment be approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR