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February 22, 2017

TO: The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1359, HD1, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to allow each county to enact and enforce ordinances necessary to prevent, investigate, control, or eradicate invasive species on any public or private premises within the limits of the county.

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. Environmental protection through the eradication of invasive species is a statewide and intergovernmental effort. The County of Maui understands this partnership and works closely with agencies such as the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) in the fight against invasive threats to our endangered species, native plants, fragile ecosystems and overall quality of life.
2. As an example, the fire ant and coqui frog population can grow at a rapid pace and time is of the essence in eliminating their infestation. Currently, MISC's ability to implement its programs are hampered by their inability to access private property where invasive species are reported.
3. Providing local authority access to private property, following necessary notice requirements, will help avoid costly and burdensome options, such as utilizing the court system to secure warrants to gain property access. This tool is critical for counties to be true partners in the fight against invasive species and fulfilling the broader goal of preserving the environment for future generations

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.