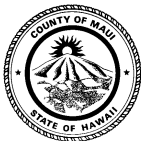


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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 7, 2017

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White".

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 8, 2017; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 637, RELATING TO COUNTY ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this measure. The purpose of this measure is to authorize counties to enter private property to control or eradicate invasive species and pests.

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. Currently, MISC's ability to implement its programs are hampered by their inability to access private property where invasive species are reported. This measure would solve this ongoing issue by allowing counties and its authorized agents, following necessary notice requirements, to enter private property for eradication efforts.
3. 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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