

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 29, 2018

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

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 JANUARY 30, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2045, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of HB 2045 is to clarify that the authority of state, county, and authorized agents' to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this proposed bill. 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 partnership driven effort. The County of Maui works closely with the Maui Invasive Species Committee ("MISC") to fight against invasive threats to our endangered species, native plants, fragile ecosystems, and overall quality of life.
2. Currently, MISC's ability to fully implement eradication programs of invasive species is hampered by the refusal of owners to access their property. Last legislative session, the county or its agents were granted the authority to access private properties after reasonable notice to eradicate invasive species. This measure simply clarifies that access is now allowed when reasonable suspicion exists.
3. This simple clarification will allow for the full deployment of comprehensive efforts to ensure invasive species can be fully contained and eradicated. All options are needed when trying to fulfill the goal of preserving the environment for future generations.

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

ocs:proj:legis:18legis:18testimony:hb2045_paf18-014_ssm