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COUNTY COUNCIL

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

February 15, 2019

TO: The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair

House Committee on Judiciary

FROM: Kelly T. King

Council Chair

SUBJECT: HEARING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HB 201, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to clarify State, county, and authorized agents' authority 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.

Kelly King

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. Invasive species cause problems throughout the State, creating both economic and environmental risks, especially to native plants and animals.
- 2. Authorized agents are professionally trained to help eradicate and control invasive species, and it is imperative they are able to access property where there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present.

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