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January 28, 2019

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

KTK

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 30, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 265, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the substantial reduction and eradication of certain invasive species in Maui 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. Noisy, invasive coqui frogs have infested Maliko Gulch and other parts of Maui's North Shore. As long as this population remains and continues to grow, the entirety of Maui Island is at risk of infestation. A concerted effort – as envisioned by this measure – is needed to prevent infestation, maintain residential quality of life, and protect the visitor experience.
2. Other invasive species, such as coffee borer beetles and little fire ants, cause problems for our farmers, creating both economic and environmental risk.

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