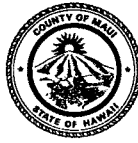


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January 27, 2020

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1714, 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 substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation of axis deer in the County of Maui, provided that the population of axis deer is managed properly, rather than eradicated.

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. The axis deer population in the County of Maui is a serious, growing problem that continues to cause significant damage to agricultural farms and ranches, and wreaks havoc on forest animals and native plants vital to watershed areas.
2. The County's significant efforts to support greater food sustainability and the protection of local food production have been negatively impacted due to an increase in axis deer.
3. Although axis deer may be referred to as an invasive species, they significantly contribute to the subsistence hunting lifestyle and cultural practices of County of Maui residents. Therefore, efforts should be made to substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation, rather than eradicate the species.

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