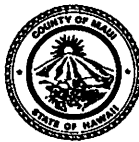


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January 27, 2020

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 1770, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to create a paid response mechanism for invasive species so that newly detected threats may be immediately addressed.

This measure is in the Maui County's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Council.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Invasive species such as coqui frogs, miconia, and little fire ants continue to threaten agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, public health, and the residential quality of life in Maui County, and therefore, must be prevented, controlled, or eliminated.
2. Rapid response to controlling and eradicating invasive species can be the difference between widespread outbreak and minimal incidents diseases such as rat lungworm, that affects the brain and spinal cord.
3. Establishing an invasive species rapid response special fund would ensure quick prevention, control, or elimination of a newly detected invasive species prior to the species becoming firmly established, saving money for taxpayers in the long term.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.