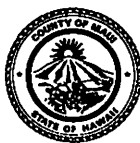


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February 12, 2020

TO: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2265, 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.

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 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 make the difference in preventing the widespread outbreak of diseases.
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, I **support** this measure.