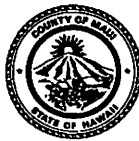


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COUNTY COUNCIL
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February 5, 2020

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Kaiulani Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2367, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to provide funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maui Branch, for invasive species technician positions in East Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

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 continue to have severe, negative impacts that 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. The invasive miconia is estimated to affect approximately 37,000 acres throughout East Maui, and poses a significant and growing threat to this area.
3. This measure would support the efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to combat miconia, and other invasive plants and animals, in an area of unique environmental concern for Maui County.

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