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March 11, 2020

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

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 16, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1922, HD1, 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 for efforts to substantially reduce and eradicate the problem of 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. Invasive species such as coqui frogs, miconia, and little fire ants continue to threaten watersheds, ecological resources, agriculture, native plant and animal species, and the residential quality of life in Maui County. Therefore, they must be prevented, controlled, or eliminated.

2. Intrastate commerce and the interisland transportation of plants have resulted in a significant increase of invasive species that has grown to include new species such as coffee borer beetles, rhinoceros beetles, and rat lungworm disease.

3. Environmental protection through the reduction and eradication of invasive species is a statewide and partnership-driven effort. The County of Maui works closely with Maui Invasive Species Committee and Molokai Invasive Species Committee to target invasive threats to Maui County. Appropriating statewide funds towards this effort is sorely needed.

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

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