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March 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 13, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2713, SD 2, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to protect the State's resources, agriculture, and health and to execute the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan by appropriating funds to mitigate or eradicate newly detected invasive species threats in the State.

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 trust 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.