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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

January 30, 2022

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair

DATE: January 30, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB 2621, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including costs incurred related to staffing, facilities, and equipment.

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. The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture reported cow herd infections with bovine tuberculosis on Molokai. This is a contagious, infectious, communicable disease of animals that can infect humans.
2. Funding is needed to control the spread of the bovine tuberculosis among livestock and feral ungulates on the island of Molokai.
3. Funds would assist with continued efforts to monitor cattle herds and wildlife to contain and eradicate infections.

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