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Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 17, 2022

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

DATE: February 17, 2022

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 3179 SD1, RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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 Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations 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. Axis deer overpopulation poses a significant threat to the ecological security and health of local communities in Maui County.
2. Axis deer overpopulation and drought conditions in Maui County have had a detrimental impact on pasture management for cattle ranchers and crop management for farmers.
3. This bill would appropriate funds to licensed hunters for axis deer herd population management.

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

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