

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



DENISE ALBANO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF DENISE ALBANO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 30, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 265, which provides funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to combat invasive pest species in Maui County. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive pest species put our homes, urban landscapes, native forests, cultivated lands, and health at risk. Landscape-destroying pests such as Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle can quickly devastate our coconut palms, which are emblematic of our tropical environment and iconic symbols of Hawaii's tourism appeal. Crop-destroying pests such as Coffee Berry Borer can severely impact our farmers and local agricultural industries. Stinging pests such as Little Fire Ant can cause serious health problems to humans and animals when the ants invade residences, cropland, and recreational areas. Providing additional funding to DLNR to combat these invasive species and others on Maui is the right thing to do to protect our State's economy and quality of life.

In finishing, it should be pointed out that invasive species threaten all our islands, not just Maui, so the Department additionally strongly supports pursuing more resources for the other islands as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, January 30, 2019
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 265 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds to reduce the problem of invasive species in the county of Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes invasive species as a major problem for the protection of natural resources, as well as for agricultural production, tourism, and human health. The Department provides funding to mitigate the impacts of invasive species on Maui through its Maui branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and through support for the Maui Invasive Species Committee. The Department notes that the administration request includes capital improvement funds for the construction of a coqui frog containment barrier for the infestation in Maliko Gulch as well as a request for 10 positions to work on field crews statewide for the reduction of invasive species in areas managed by the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Two of these requested positions would be located on Maui and an additional position would be located on Molokai.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

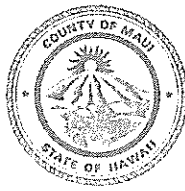
ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Acting Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

January 28, 2019

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Creagan, and Committee Members:

Re: Hearing of January 30, 2019; Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB 265**, Relating to Invasive Species

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** for HB 265. This important measure would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to substantially reduce and eradicate certain invasive species in Maui County, including coqui frogs, little fire ants, coffee berry borers, rhinoceros beetles, rat lung worm carriers, and axis deer.

These pests threaten Maui County residents' livelihoods, health, and safety. Additionally, invasive species have had significant damaging effects on Maui County's delicate ecosystem, businesses, and agriculture.

Please support the funding request to eradicate and control invasive species in Maui County before it's too late.

Mahalo for your consideration of **HB 265**.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael P. Victorino".

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Maui County Mayor

Council Chair
Kelly T. King

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Alice L. Lee
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Maria E. Zielinski

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

January 28, 2019

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

KTK

FROM: Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 30, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 265, 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 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the substantial reduction and eradication of certain 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. Noisy, invasive coqui frogs have infested Maliko Gulch and other parts of Maui's North Shore. As long as this population remains and continues to grow, the entirety of Maui Island is at risk of infestation. A concerted effort – as envisioned by this measure – is needed to prevent infestation, maintain residential quality of life, and protect the visitor experience.
2. Other invasive species, such as coffee borer beetles and little fire ants, cause problems for our farmers, creating both economic and environmental risk.

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

January 30, 2019

The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

RE: H.B. 265, Relating to Invasive Species

HEARING: Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Ken Hiraki Government Affairs Director, submitting written testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its almost 9,700 members. HAR **strongly supports** H.B. 265 which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the substantial reduction and eradication of certain invasive species in Maui County.

According to the recently released Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (2017-2027), Hawaii's ever-increasing interconnectedness with the rest of the world has led to an onslaught of exotic species from around the world arriving in our harbors and airports and ultimately becoming established here. The Plan suggests that 10 percent of those invading species will prove to be harmful to our economy, our environment, and our very way of life

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) is estimating that Maui will experience the same level of LFA and coqui frog infestation that is now prevalent in the Hilo and Puna Districts of the Big Island in the next 10 years if governmental agencies do not take a more proactive stance. The Biosecurity plan essentially says the same thing.

HAR believes that programs and efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents and to our State ecosystem. The spread of invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to the economy, tourism, and real estate industry.

As such, HAR strongly supports efforts to substantially reduce and eradicate invasive species.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau is in strong support of HB 265, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the substantial reduction and eradication of certain invasive species in Maui County.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Maui County. We respectfully request that all Counties receive funding to combat invasive species.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, January 30, 2019
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 312 State Capitol

RE: HB 265 Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha mai kakou Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 265 relating to Invasive Species**.

HB 265 appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the substantial reduction and eradication of certain invasive species in Maui County.

Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State of our marine resources an ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua`a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, polices to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security an strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 5-16.*

As indicated on page 2, lines 1-3 of HB 265: “The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to substantially reduce and eradicate the problem of invasive species in the county of Maui.”

For the foregoing reasons, OCCLP supports HB 265 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

Ph. (808) 258-8889

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/25/2019 9:04:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Oppose	No

Comments:

Really. We have wasted enough of the taxpayers money attempting to kill things and in this case you are trying to kill creatures that have been proven to be aproblematic for the environment. Its time to stop killing. Everything deserves a chance to live. Who made you god. Live and let live. This attitude of killing has to stop. Humans are disgusting.

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:01:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Catherine Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha from Haiku, Maui. I am one of the unlucky Haiku homeowners that resides along the edge of Maliko gulch. My husband spends 1 to 3 hours several times each week catching individual frogs on our property, or spraying the gulch areas surrounding our property. This is an ongoing process for years now. This is like having a second job, and all because eradication didn't happen when this was a small, controllable problem. Without our neighborhood doing their part to contain the frogs to Maliko gulch, they would simply go hopping from our property to the next, and to the next. If that were to happen, lives would be impacted, and the economic consequences to Maui could be dramatic.

It's time to take a huge leap, and fully fund an eradication of the habitat areas. Had this been done years ago, we wouldn't be in this position today. At that time, it was one nursery, then it was one section of Maliko gulch, then the entire gulch up to Kaluanui Road, and now a much larger area of Haiku. We are still at the point where eradication is possible. The time is now! The community is willing to do their part, but government needs to take the lead and fund a massive "all at once" clean-up.

What should the funding level be? Whatever it takes! Think about it this way.... how much funding would you put into the State budget if the infested area was next to your house? Perhaps your parent's home?

Thank you for your consideration. If you feel any need for a first hand experience of the problem, be sure to contact me, and I'd be happy to invite you to my home.

Catherine Clark

808-575-9973 or 808-575-9228

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:04:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sue Luyet	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in the Haiku Hill neighborhood above Maliko Gulch. We are inundated. When we are able to borrow a MISC tank, things quiet down for a few nights. The biggest problem is that many neighbors don't have the wearwithall or man power to spray, which leaves us at square one. This is affecting our health, our sleep, and our property values. Who would want to live in these infested areas? With appropriate funding, the state could spray Maliko gulch and stop this before it is island wide. DO YOU HEAR US? SPRAY MALIKO GULCH PLEASE!!!!!! We are at our wits end, it is an endless battle that the whole island will be fighting soon... and then it will be too late.

Aloha

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 1:59:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
DAVID DELEON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Testimony

In Support of HB 265

Before House Agricultural Committee, 1.30.19

Submitted by David DeLeon

335 Waiama Way, Haiku, Hi. 96708, dpdeleon@hawaiiintel.net, 808-575-9711

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support House Bill 265, appropriating funding for the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)'s efforts to keep at bay and hopefully eradicate truly dangerous invasive species. The fire ant invasion is nothing less than an existential threat to our way of life. For those on the committee who have not had a chance to educate yourself yet on the seriousness of this threat, just look up the Little Fire Ant by the Invasive Special Council on the Google.

My neighborhood in Haiku on the edge of Maliko Gulch has been at the epicenter of the coqui frog invasion on Maui for the last five years. The problem caused by coqui pales in comparison to the LFA threat, but it does nonetheless seriously impact our way of life, destroys the peace and quiet of our nights – dust to dawn, and will ultimately have a serious negative impact on property values and our visitor-oriented economy if left unchecked. For me, it has been having close windows at night to be able to hear the television and wearing ear plugs to be able to sleep.

Our neighborhood, Haiku Hill, has rallied to win back the night from the frogs' racket, but we have only been able to do that because of the support and the encouragement we have received from MISC. To the degree possible, MISC teams have helped our efforts, and when they were stretched too thin to be able to do the works themselves, they taught us how to attack the problem ourselves and supported us with equipment – like pickup truck scale sprayers and large amounts of citrus acid. Because of MISC's

support we believe we have been successful in stemming the coqui invasion in our community.

To date, the majority of the funding to fight the coqui on Maui has come from Maui County. We encourage the State to get in the game now, before these unbelievably noisy frogs start showing up in your neighborhoods. This threat is insidious. You don't know how impactful living with these creatures can be until you have experienced them first hand. Maui is not yet experiencing the degree of impact Big Island communities have and we believe we can stop what happened on the Big Island happening here. What happened on Hawaii Island? There are locations where it is estimated there are 20,000 of these creatures per acre. We are nowhere near that point yet, and we are going to keep fighting to keep that from happening. But to win our fight, we need the continued support of MISC and hopefully the full support of the State Government.

Mahalo

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 7:48:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
arturo wesley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident at 230 Waiama Way, Haiku, 96708. I live right on the edge of Lilikoi Gulch where the coqui frogs are very numerous. Any frogs which make their way up onto my property I hunt at night and kill, a long process which takes a lot of patience to get just 1 or 2. About once a month we get together with neighbors and use a 1000 gallon tank and sprayer which MISC lends us.

This is working very well but the coqui are embedded in the gulch and we need more powerfull equipment and more help from MISC.

Coqui are loud and I can assure you when you have one close to your house, it will keep you up at night.

Now is our chance to try and stop them before they spread to the rainforest and completely take over our island.

Sincerely,

Arturo Wesley

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/27/2019 9:00:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
gianluca bo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 10:30:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i asks that the Coqui Frog and Axis Deer be removed from this bill.

Mahalo!

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:46:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The bill is extremely imprecise. It doesn't specify which "invasive species" are being targeted. The list of 6 examples is very limited and not particularly helpful. If funds are to be appropriated, the bill should be more specific about exactly what the money will be used for. There is also no indication of what kind of controls will be used on the various "invasive species." How will the axis deer be eliminated? Will it be painless for the deer? Will hunters just be allowed to hunt them anywhere? What about such "invasive species" as cats? Can this funding be used to eliminate them? How will the people in charge ensure that no tame cats or owned cats will be eliminated?

I realize this is just a general bill to start the conversation and will be changed as it progresses but I suggest that the bill be made more specific at this point to indicate which animals, insects, etc. will be targeted with a better idea of how they will be eliminated. This will allow for more serious and well thought out testimony which could help the final version be acceptable to more people.

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:37:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please the Coqui Frog and the Axis Deer be removed from this list.

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:32:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 11:25:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katharine Popenuk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Maui is critical to the health of the State of Hawaii's economy. It is a top international vacation spot, bringing millions of dollars in to the state. Can we really jeopardize that income by allowing invasive species degradate our lovely island with stinging fire ants, noising coqui frogs, non native grasses and the like? To do so would be very unwise.

Maui residents, MISC, and others have been fighting a battle with the invasive coqui frog. Please don't let us go the way of the big island, where the battle has been lost. There is still the hope of eradicating the frog forever, but time is of the essences. Please inress funding to help us do this very important job.

Respectfully,

Katharine Popenuk

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:07:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 3:58:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

People have been Hunting Axis Deer on Molokai for over 155 years, as a subsistence source of Food! HB265 could end this so important source of Protein for the People of Molokai!

Mahalo B

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 4:19:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Management not eradication.

www.WeAreOne.cc

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:02:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laa Poepoe	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

La'a Poepoe, molokai resident, submitting comments to the house committee on agriculture item HB265. I would recommend that the #6 species listed, "axis deer", be stricken from the list of invasive species included in this bill, unless an explanation on the rationale for its inclusion can be presented to those communities affected by the potential outcome of this bill. axis deer is a major source of protein, supplementing the diet of many residents of molokai practicing subsistence gathering. although measurable amounts of soil erosion and crop damage may be directly contributed to their presence, with an effective game management plan, eradication is an unnecessary and rather extreme solution. also consider the distribution of funding across the 6 total species which includes 4 insects, 1 parasite, and 1 mammal, compared to the population distribution of these species within maui county, to determine if the funding is adequate. the addition of axis deer on this list stands to dilute funding away from those other species listed, and may prove infeasible, as axis deer have an established population in maui county. this can be remedied by considering the exclusion of axis deer from this list.

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 6:32:08 PM
Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Travis Ota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Eradication of Axis Deer in Maui county may be something that has been requested by a few farmers, landowners, and resorts, however the food resources provided as well as the underbrush control provided by these animals in areas that were once ag lands or are inhabited by non native grasses and Hale Koa which limits wildfire risk is something that needs to be taken into consideration. We on Molokai seek to preserve our food resources and manage them for future generations. If the state is truly dedicated to a truly sustainable Hawaii then eradicating super high protien food sources should not be something even entertained. Please vote against this bill.

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:47:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Lawmakers,

I currently OPPOSE HB265, because I oppose eradication of deer. People have been Hunting Axis Deer on Molokai for over 155 years, as a subsistence source of Food! HB265 could end this so important source of Protein for the People of Molokai!

Please, manage the deer population, so the deer can live in the natural wild, and hunters can enjoy eating delicious deer meat.

Share the earth in harmony with wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 7:52:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mahina Lopes	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am a born and raised Molokai resident and I ask that axis deer be removed from the list of species to eradicate on Molokai for the reasons stated below.

On Molokai we value axis deer as a dependable and necessary subsistence resource, my family included. Cost of living is high on Molokai and knowing that we can harvest deer to feed our families gives us peace of mind especially in these politically uncertain times.

A random sample survey administered by Governor Waihee's "Molokai Subsistence Taskforce" found that not only is subsistence resourcing one of the basic economic activities on Molokai but that it is also a central part of the lifestyle of many Molokai residents. This report noted that Molokai residents gather 28% of the food that they and their families consume, and 76% of respondents said that subsistence is either very important or somewhat important which proves the significance of subsistence lifestyle on Molokai. Unemployment is high on Molokai, wages are low, groceries, utilities, and gas are expensive, but these hardships are offset by subsistence and availability of deer meat as a food source, which in turn helps maintain quality of life and offset the need for money.

We seek to actively manage our resources, including axis deer. We absolutely do not wish to eradicate them. We are very aware of the need manage the deer population and have already taken a step toward management by prioritizing the creation of a community driven game management plan in our newly enacted Molokai Island Plan which is a county planning document.

The action in this bill of tagging axis deer for eradication with no community consultation takes away from the progress the state has made thus far in legitimizing community management of subsistence resources. According to an Aha Kiole Advisory Committee Report for Molokai "All of the communities consulted by the 'Aha Kiole Advisory Committee agreed that they wanted to be consulted and to participate in the natural resource management and governance process, and that each locality has specific differences that are not served by State-wide regulations."

Rep Decoite though being well aware of the subsistence value of axis deer to the people of Molokai never consulted the community here on Molokai or held a public

meeting discussing this issue. I ask that axis deer be removed from the list of species to eradicate on Molokai.

LATE

HB-265

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 8:43:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/30/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Lodge	hawaii hunting association	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is outrageous and a mask using "invasive species" as the "mechanism" to subvert the cultural, recreational, and historic introductions of these regal animals to the Kingdom of Hawaii where they were then and still regarded as natural resources. HCR22, that you all passed unanimously, refers to the sustainability of our resources.

This should be rejected outright and instead HB250 and 251 should be encouraged to be heard so that DLNR can be guided to do the management that they neglect intentionally in order to facilitate a crisis demanding "drastic actions" be taken... just as this does. I'm actually surprised at the lack of empathy you all have for the people of Hawaii and their time honored resources.