

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1714
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1714 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to manage axis deer in Maui County. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the impacts of axis deer on natural and agricultural resources. The Department was a participant in, and partial funder of, the Maui Axis Deer Working Group, a project of the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The purpose of this working group was to obtain a population estimate for deer on Maui Island, understand the population dynamics of this species, and develop a longterm control strategy. Due to changes in personnel the project discontinued its meetings following Fiscal Year 2014. The final report for this project is available at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/files/2013/05/FY14-Report-MDWG-Control.pdf>. The Department suggests that funding, should it be appropriated, be used to implement an Axis deer control program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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 PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**JANUARY 29, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1714
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1714, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for efforts to substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation of axis deer in Maui County; provided that the population of axis deer shall be managed properly rather than eradicated. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. Funding for control of invasive species, such as axis deer, is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts. However, the Department also recognizes that certain invasive species, such as axis deer, contribute to the subsistence hunting lifestyle and cultural practices of residents, so it supports a balanced management of axis deer that helps mitigate the harmful effects while maintaining cultural practices of Hawai'i residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

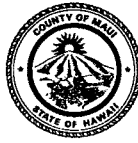


Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

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Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
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Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

January 27, 2020

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

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1714, 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 substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation of axis deer in the County of Maui, provided that the population of axis deer is managed properly, rather than eradicated.

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:

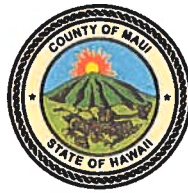
1. The axis deer population in the County of Maui is a serious, growing problem that continues to cause significant damage to agricultural farms and ranches, and wreaks havoc on forest animals and native plants vital to watershed areas.
2. The County's significant efforts to support greater food sustainability and the protection of local food production have been negatively impacted due to an increase in axis deer.
3. Although axis deer may be referred to as an invasive species, they significantly contribute to the subsistence hunting lifestyle and cultural practices of County of Maui residents. Therefore, efforts should be made to substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation, rather than eradicate the species.

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

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director

Kay Fukumoto
Economic Development Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

2200 MAIN STREET
ONE MAIN PLAZA, SUITE 305
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

January 27, 2020

TESTIMONY OF KAY FUKUMOTO
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

HB1714 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **FULL SUPPORT** of HB1714.

The purpose of this bill is to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to expend up to \$3,500,000 for activities relating to the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui. The Mayor and the County Council agree that management of the population with community input is key. If unmanaged there will be unprecedented damages to our watersheds, agricultural crop losses, diseases in strained deer populations and is a danger to human life and property. Our Maui police department confirms numerous damages to vehicles from deer and it will only be a matter of time for other potential human injuries.

Axis deer support both a subsistence hunting lifestyle and can become a viable, thriving agricultural industry if managed correctly. This high quality protein, harvested carefully, can be marketed similar to high quality "Kobe beef." As Maui County attempts to diversify its economy, we would like the opportunity to take an invasive species and turn it into a thriving economic asset.

I strongly urge you to pass this measure, HB1714.

Sincerely,

Kay Fukumoto
Economic Development Director

Michael P. Victorino
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz
Managing Director



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

January 28, 2020

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312

HB1714 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **FULL SUPPORT** of HB1714.

The purpose of this bill is to require the department of land and natural resources to expend up to \$3,500,000 for activities relating to the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui.

The exploding population of axis deer in the county of Maui, roughly estimated to be 150,000 animals, and rising, is causing major destruction to agricultural crops and plants, including endangered native and culturally significant species. The county has made significant efforts to support greater food sustainability, and local food production. However, those efforts are hindered by these deer which, in addition to destroying crops, also compete with livestock for forage. The protection of local food production from the ravages of axis deer is vital to the county's efforts.

That said, it is also true that axis deer contribute to the subsistence hunting lifestyle, and cultural practices, of some residents of Maui, Molokai and Lanai. Accordingly, the focus of this legislation is on the management of axis deer, not their eradication.

I strongly urge you to pass this measure, HB1714.

Sincerely,

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

Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

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Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

January 28, 2020

TO: Honorable Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Councilmember, Upcountry Maui

DATE: January 29, 2020

SUBJECT: **HB 1714: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

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

I am in strong support of HB1714, appropriating funding to the DLNR for the management of axis deer populations in the County of Maui.

A comprehensive management plan by knowledgeable experts to guide our county to bring axis deer populations to manageable levels is needed. I respect those that see the deer as part of their subsistence lifestyle and want their needs met while addressing the over population that is creating the damage to our environment. While they eat forage meant for cattle, they are also indiscriminately eating native plants and other desired species. I fear the impacts they may have if soil borne forest diseases such as the Rapid Ohia Wilt establishes on Maui. The deer will definitely be a means of spread creating devastation to our precious forest lands.

January 28, 2020

Page 2

A collaborative effort between USDA-APHIS, the State and County along with our community is needed. The community needs to be aware of what is going on and be part of the decision-making process. Axis deer populations in Maui County have exponentially increased, creating havoc in communities and our agricultural lands. We have been fortunate in not having a fatality, a not uncommon occurrence on the continent as deer race across highways. Ranchers have been doubly impacted as with reduced forage during droughts and the deer eating the remaining food for the cattle. Culling of herds have resulted as feed sources dwindle. Farmers are faced with irrigation tube damages as hooves of the deer pierce the tubing when they run across the field and crops left unharvested due to droppings in the field. I myself have deer visiting my yard in the evenings. They are everywhere.

Your support in passage of this measure would be very much appreciated. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my views on this matter.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair

HB1714

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui.

Wednesday, January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Decoite, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

My name is Nicole Galase and I am the Managing Director for the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. We are writing to support HB1714 relating to invasive species. HCC is committed to supporting our civic leaders promote a coherent state-wide policy for sustainable development. Using the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as a framework, we advocate policy that; increases local food production to promote food security, protects agricultural lands, promotes carbon neutrality, models sustainable land use, protects our watersheds, supports long-term stable employment that embraces technology and innovation, contributes to the health and well-being of the community, and encourages public, private and civic partnerships.

Invasive deer populations on Maui, Moloka'i and Lanai are expanding and negatively impact island ranchers. Invasive deer:

- denude the environment which increases erosion and diminishes the integrity of our watersheds,
- disrupt strategic grazing practices and reduce quality forage for production livestock by overgrazing and promoting the establishment of weeds and other invasive or noxious plants,
- damage and destroy infrastructure, including fences, pipelines and water sources,
- may serve as vectors for animal and zoonotic disease.

As a result, our island ranchers suffer not only economically but also in their ability to contribute to Hawaii's Sustainable Development Goals as listed above.

We strongly support funds be appropriated to develop a management and mitigation plan for invasive deer. The plan should include a ground survey of all affected islands and an analysis of control methods including but not limited to hunting/harvest, production management, sterilization and eradication.

The management and mitigation plan should be developed with sensitivity to the unique environments and cultural conditions in which the deer exist on each island. Cooperation between government agencies, affected landowners and community leaders will optimize success.

Once completed, the plan should be review by stakeholders to determine implementation.





Maui County

January 29, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB1714: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 312
8:30 am

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

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We are a County Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, representing 180 farm families and organizations on the island. Our mission seeks to protect and increase the viability of farms and ranches while ensuring the social and environmental wellbeing of the island.

MCFB is in strong support of this measure, appropriating funding to the DLNR for the management of axis deer populations in the County of Maui.

This is a picture in the fallow section of one of our farmers' fields on Sunday morning. Such herds have become common in the area, eating green onions, bok choy, broccoli, and radish. A third of one of his mizuna plantings was destroyed in December. As deer enter his field and leave droppings, he is not able to harvest the immediate area around the droppings due to food safety concerns. He has tried multiple methods of control, none of which work. The lower portion of the field where the deer come from is fenced as there is a cow pasture on the other side but to no avail. Hunters in the vicinity have been problematic as the deer come to his field to escape. With houses in the vicinity, shooting is dangerous.



It is evident that a toolbox of solutions is needed to address the deer problem. Open ranges can allow shooting while our smaller farms with homes on all sides will be problematic. Having these farms become havens for the deer is the current situation and we need a solution.

During droughts, deer create a bigger loss to our ranchers who are already short of forage. We know in the pasts during severe droughts the deer have died from starvation. Such huge populations is unhealthy. There is always a fear of disease transmission for wild herds to the domestic animals.

Your support in passage of this measure would be very much appreciated. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our views on this matter.

HB-1714

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 10:39:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Owens Jacintho	Maui Cattlemen's Association	Support	No

Comments:

Support, and MCA would like to be involved in Budget allotment regarding this bill. It is critical that stakeholders be involved in where the funds are used.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 28, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1714
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312
8:30 AM

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

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.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1714, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui's axis deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as the bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

<https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/news-releases/news-release-january-26-2006-nr06-01/>

Developing a comprehensive strategy can become an example of how the research community, various agencies, and the public can jointly solve a problem. We urge that the communities in the various areas be included as strategies are developed.

Our farmers and ranchers look to providing Hawaii with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed by feral animals.

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

HB-1714

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:12:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

Axis Deer populations on Maui are already a nuisance to residents, a costly pest to farmers, and a threat to native forests and watersheds...yet studies suggest their population will expand to at least four times its current size without intervention. BIISC supports this measure and notes the state's responsibility to protect farms and forests by taking assertive action to keep the Axis Deer population in check.

Thank you for your consideration.



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1714 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our strong support of HB1714.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports this bill to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population in Maui County.

With a growing axis deer problem, that is hurting local farmers, affecting businesses, becoming an increasing nuisance to residents and impacting our environment and watersheds, we have to ramp up deer management efforts before the threat becomes unmanageable.

In Upcountry and open areas, down to Wailea and Makena, deer issues are escalating. As Mahi Pono installs more fences to protect its crops, deer will migrate elsewhere, meaning into residential areas, roadways, parks, resort properties, etc. There are many areas Upcountry where watching herds run through open fields is like watching a segment of The Lion King, with hoards of animals running through the tundra. Unlike other states that are used to deer, our residents and drivers are not prepared for and equipped to deal with this threat. The DLNR should be doing more to address this issue.

We appreciate that there is another bill addressing other invasive species on Maui and we need both bills and expanded efforts like the rapid response plan to take care of these issues.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-1714

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 11:12:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Wood	Parker Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1714

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 9:35:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray Oda	Individual	Support	No

Comments: