

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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**FEBRUARY 13, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1714 HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1714 HD1, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for activities relating to the reduction and management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui, and directs the county of Maui to prepare a plan that details how it will reduce and manage the overpopulation of axis deer in the county of Maui. 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.

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
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 13, 2020
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1714, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1714, House Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to manage axis deer in Maui County. House Draft 1 of this measure would additionally appropriate funds to the County of Maui for planning purposes. **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 finalize and expand upon the work of the Maui Axis Deer Working Group to examine populations on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai and to develop and begin to implement a control program.

With regard to the amendments in House Draft 1 that would additionally appropriate funds to the County of Maui for planning purposes, the Department is supportive of collaboration with the County on planning for management and suggests the draft management plan from the Maui Axis Deer Working Group as a foundation for future planning efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

February 11, 2020

TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Thursday, February 13, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325

HB1714, HD1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in **FULL SUPPORT** of HB1714, HD1.
The purpose of this bill is to require the department of land and natural resources to expend monies to manage the axis deer population in Maui County; and for the County to develop a plan to reduce and manage the growing axis deer population.

The growing population of axis deer in Maui County, roughly estimated to be 130,000 animals, 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. Those efforts are hindered by axis 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.

Maintaining a healthy and manageable axis deer population also supports a subsistence hunting lifestyle, and cultural practices, for residents of Maui County. Accordingly, the focus of this legislation is on the management and reduction of axis deer, not their eradication.

I strongly urge you to pass this measure, HB1714, HD1.

February 11, 2020
Page 2



Maui County

February 12, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB1714 HD1: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 325
8:30 am

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, 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.



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 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.

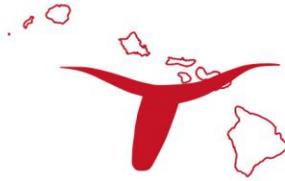
These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Rep. Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair

HB1714 HD1

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui. Appropriates funds to Maui County for preparation of a plan detailing how it will reduce and manage the overpopulation of Axis deer. Takes effect on 7/1/2150. (HD1)

Wednesday, February 13, 2020, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

We are writing to support HB1714 HD1. 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.

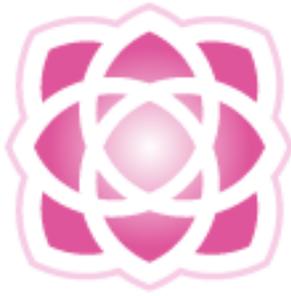
We support funds to be appropriated to develop a management and mitigation plan for invasive deer. The plan should include a ground survey of all affected islands and an analysis of control methods including but not limited to hunting/harvest, production management, sterilization and eradication.

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.

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.

Nicole Galase
Managing Director
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council





MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair;
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

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.

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.

However, we feel the management plan should not hold up beginning the work on axis deer management. The longer management is delayed, the larger the herds become and escalates the nuisance, damage and cost to address the issue. There was a working group and some semblance of a plan created previously. We understand the discussions on subsistence hunting and the discussions we have been in are only on management and control of deer, not eradication. In managing and controlling the deer population, it is also important to realize the focus should be on does to quell the herds. Further, we feel the majority of funding should go towards axis deer control and management with less going towards the plan.

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-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 7:53:39 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: