



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 7, 2025

RE: SUPPORT for Agenda Item Related to HCR42 – County Biosecurity Plans

The Honorable Alice Lee
Chair, Maui County Council
Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee and Honorable Council Members,

As former Committee Chair on Agriculture & Food Systems, I write in strong support of Agenda Item HCR 42—a House Concurrent Resolution encouraging each county in Hawaii, including Maui, to establish its own biosecurity plan tailored to local needs

Invasive species continue to pose urgent threats: degrading native habitats, endangering endemic species, and jeopardizing agricultural livelihoods and public health. HCR 42 responds by encouraging localized biosecurity planning—empowering each county to develop proactive, community-based strategies for early detection, rapid response, and invasive species mitigation.

Maui County's leadership in adopting a customized biosecurity plan will strengthen statewide coordination, support innovative and culturally appropriate strategies, and safeguard Maui's unique ecosystems and agricultural resilience. Through inter-county collaboration and partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, Maui can help shape a comprehensive, island-sensitive biosecurity model.

Mahalo for your consideration. I wholeheartedly support Maui County's engagement with HCR 42 and stand ready to assist in bringing this vision to fruition.

Mahalo,

Representative Kirstin Kahaloa
Majority Caucus Leader
Hawaii House of Representatives, District 6

Representative Kirstin Kahaloa
District 6: Kailua-Kona, Hōlualoa, Keauhou, Kealahou, Captain Cook, Nāpo'opo'o, Hōnaunau
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