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March 11, 2023

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1382, HD2, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to include wild game meat as a donation-eligible food resource for under-resourced communities and to establish a Meat Processing Task Force.

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. Areas of Maui County are devastated by overpopulation of axis deer and other invasive species, resulting in nuisance and environmental degradation, including deforestation and erosion.
2. One way to reduce the overpopulation is to encourage use of wild game as a food resource, which would also contribute to high-protein food supply for residents, including lower-income families and houseless individuals.
3. The measure will help turn an environmental problem into a valuable resource and a source of much-needed sustenance.

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