

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

418

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15 2007

RE: S.B. No. 639
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2007
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committees on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 639 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to prohibit the importation and sale of noxious weeds and any new plant species without first having the Department of Agriculture conduct an inspection and issue its approval.

In addition, this measure requires the Department of Agriculture to update its noxious weed list every two years and appropriates funds for the revision and review of the noxious weed list.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Conservation Council for Hawaii, the Sierra Club, and one individual. Testimony in opposition was submitted by the Department of Agriculture. The Department of the Attorney General submitted comments.

Your Committees find that conservation organizations in the State are fighting to slow the invasion of alien plants that are spreading from home and commercial landscapes into native forests. Your Committees further find that the introduction of new plants

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into Hawaii can contribute to the growing number of invasive species that are crowding out native plants and covering open fields.

Your Committees note the concern that the prohibition of the importation of any new plant species without first acquiring the approval of the Department of Agriculture may prove burdensome and may be over-restrictive. However, your Committees find that there is a need to improve the State's response to noxious weeds and to proactively address the importation of new invasive species.

Your Committees have amended this measure by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Agriculture to annually review and, as necessary, update the list of plants designated as noxious weeds, rather than requiring an update every two-years;
- (2) Removing the requirement that the Department of Agriculture inspect and approve new plant species before their sale or importation; and
- (3) Prohibiting the offer for sale and the sale of noxious weeds in the State.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs and Energy and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 639, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 639, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs and Energy and
Environment,



RON MENOR, Chair


RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

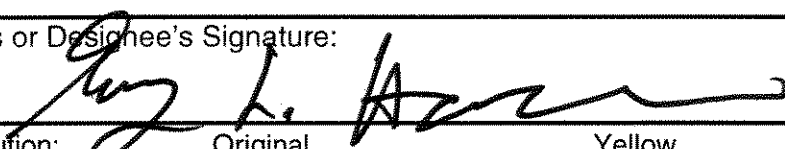
Record of Votes
Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
WAH

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>S.B. 639</i>	Committee Referral: <i>WAH/ENE, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2/12/07</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KOKUBUN, Russell S. (C)	/			/
TOKUDA, Jill N. (VC)	/			
FUKUNAGA, Carol	/			
HEE, Clayton	/			
SLOM, Sam	/			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate
 Twenty-Fourth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy and Environment
ENE

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 639	Committee Referral: WAH/ENE, WAM	Date: 2/13/07		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
MENOR, Ron (C)	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L. (VC)	✓			
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
TRIMBLE, Gordon	✓			
TOTAL	4			1
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency				

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