

LATE**Big Island Invasive Species Committee**

Testimony from the Big Island Invasive Species Committee

On SB-2523 Relating to Invasive Species and Restricted Plants

Before the Committee(s) on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs/Energy & Environment

February 5, 2008

SB 2523 Prohibits the sale of plants designated as restricted plants or noxious weeds. This measure amends and strengthens the authority of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to implement administrative rules to limit the distribution of plants and any portions deemed noxious to prevent the spread of invasive species within the State. **BIISC supports the measure in its entirety with the amended changes.**

In addition, subsection 152-3(b) is necessary to restrict the sale of noxious and restricted plants within the State and BIISC supports this addition to the current rules. Stopping sales of restricted plant's, is vital to containing the spread of invasive species. BIISC has fielded numerous calls, where reports of such sales of plants are or have occurred. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture requires this particular rule change to strengthen its authority to limit; pending permits; or halt the sale of noxious plants altogether.