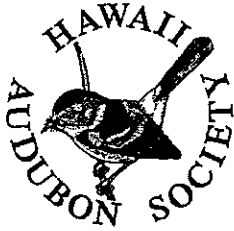


**TESTIMONY**  
**HB 1684 HD2**  
**LATE**



# LATE TESTIMONY

*For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife*  
**HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY**

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709  
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com  
www.hawaii-audubon.com

George Massengale, JD  
Support

March 9, 2010

**Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**  
**Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**Hearing: Wednesday, March 10, 2010**  
**Time: 2:45 P.M.**  
**Place: Conference Rm. 229**

**Re: HB1684, HD2**

### **Testimony in Support**

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda, and members of the Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB1684, HD2, which attempts to reduce the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species by establishing and revising penalties appropriate to the harm caused by the intentional introduction and resulting spread of invasive species to our economy, and natural environment.

The Hawai'i Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and it is Hawai'i's oldest conservation organization. For the last 71 years the primary mission of the Society has been to foster community values that result in the protection and restoration of native ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, ecology research, and advocacy.

The Society strongly supports measures that protect our ecosystems from invasive species. Once established, invasive animals and plants crowd out endemic (native) native species. The sad fact is that Hawai'i has the highest number of listed threatened and endangered species in the nation. There are 394 threatened and endangered species in the State of Hawai'i, of which 294 are plants. Invasive plants have led to the extinction of 55 species of plants in the State with another 42 possibly extinct. The introduction of nonendemic animals has led to the extinction 24 bird species and is endangering another 32.

Invasive species are the greatest threat to Hawai'i's natural environment. The key to controlling invasive species is prevention. Enhancing the penalties for intentionally transporting and introducing a prohibited animal or plant species into our state will be a strong disincentive and will discourage individuals from doing so. It will also help enhance current prevention and control efforts.

We urge the committee to pass HBI684 HD2.

We appreciate the opportunity to offer testify here today.

Respectfully,

Legislative Analyst



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs  
P. O. Box 1135  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96807

## **LATE TESTIMONY**

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT  
IN SUPPORT OF

**HB 1684, HD2 - RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

**COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Senator Clayton Hee, Chair**

**Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**Wednesday, March 20, 2010, 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229**

Aloha Chairperson Hee, Vice Chairperson Tokuda, and members of the Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 1684 HD2, which would revise penalties appropriate to the harm caused by the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species to the economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people.

Hawaii accounts for more than 70 per cent of the Nation's recorded extinctions and more than one quarter of its rare and endangered species, and it is home to over 10,000 native animal and plant species which are in constant danger due to the influx of illegal animals, plants and insects. Hawai'i's native ecosystems are threatened by the importation of illegal life forms.

Thus, the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs supports penalties for those who import illegal pests and animals. Since 1992, it has adopted resolutions urging the State of Hawaii to Enforce Stricter Measures Against the Importation of Plants, Animals, and Insects, to include stricter penalties against those who violate quarantine laws and laws regulating the introduction of alien plants, insect and animal species.

Article 11, Section 1 of the Hawai'i State Constitution, states, "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai'i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the state. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people". We strongly believe that the penalties called for in HB 1684 HD2 is consistent with the public purpose enshrined in our constitution and is a logical step in implementing the 2009 Hawaii Invasive Species Program Summary Report by the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, which identified the need for, "Better laws and rules to support effective enforcement action to prevent the arrival, establishment and spread of invasive species". We urge passage of this legislation.

**TESTIMONY**  
**HB 1684 HD2**  
**LATE**  
**(END)**