



Testimony In Support of HB 1943, Relating to Invasive Species  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Public Hearing 28 March 2012 9:35am, Conference Room 211

Audrey Newman  
Hawaii Green Growth Initiative  
P.O. Box 535, Hoolehua, Hawai'i 96729

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG) in support of HB1943. HGG brings leaders from the energy, food, and environmental sectors together to achieve Hawai'i's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. Our members and advisors include more than 50 leaders from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i. HGG recognizes that the brown tree snake and other invasive species threaten Hawai'i's economy and sustainability, with serious past and potential impacts in agriculture, energy, water supply, tourism, public health, native ecosystems and more.

We ask you to support HB1943, making an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture to fund a dog detector program. HGG recognizes the extreme economic, cultural, and ecological importance of detecting invasive species prior to their entry into the state. The dog detector program at HDOA is a proven system for enhancing our agricultural biosecurity and for keeping unwanted pests out of Hawai'i.

A 2010 study by Schwiff et al. estimated the economic cost of a brown tree snake introduction in Hawai'i to be \$2.1 billion annually in medical and infrastructure costs alone, stemming from treatment for snake bites and damage to electrical systems through snake-generated short circuits. This estimate does not include control and monitoring costs for snakes, nor does it place a value on the ecological resources that would be impacted, including Hawai'i's native bird species. Currently the State relies heavily on predeparture biosecurity measures in Guam and the Northern Marianas Islands to prevent brown tree snake invasions. These programs, however, do not have stable funding.

The dog detector program at HDOA would enhance protection against invasion not only by snakes, but other invasive pests targeted by cross-trained dogs. The HDOA previously ran a successful dog detection program prior to loss of funding in recent years, and has secured a federal grant to partially fund reinstating this program. A state appropriation would be used as match to retain federal funds, would be used for a program with a proven track record, and could save Hawai'i billions in future medical, infrastructure, and control costs. We strongly encourage you to support HB1943.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light grey rectangular background.

Audrey Newman  
Senior Advisor, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)  
Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods. [www.glispa.org](http://www.glispa.org)



The Senate  
Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, March 28, 2012  
9:35 a.m., Conference Room 211  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 1943 HD2 SD1**

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1943 HD2 SD1, Relating to Invasive Species**, which would make an appropriation to re-establish the HDOA detector dog program.

The 2009 CGAPS Vision and Action Plan lists the re-establishment of HDOA's detector dog program as one of the ten most important actions we must take to protect Hawai'i. Although vitally important in detecting brown treesnakes and other species of concern, the dog/handler teams are also effective at encouraging honest behavior in people that see them in the terminals, and discouraging smuggling in those that are taking advantage of the current system. We respectfully ask for your support. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin  
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)  
Ph: (808) 722-0995

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1943 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 9:35AM, Rm. 211

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 10 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1943 SD1 and its purpose to provide support for State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to reinstate its dog detector program. Please provide sufficient funding to ensure that the HDOA is able to support this program with permanent staffing, with the understanding that State funds will be matched by funds from the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Program to enhance its invasive species prevention efforts at air and sea ports with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection systems and services, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i.

Having an operational canine inspection program is an important means of detecting pests in cargo, particularly brown tree snakes that may stow away in cargo coming to Hawai'i from Guam. Evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical than eradicating a pest or, even worse, controlling it indefinitely once it becomes established. This is especially the case with brown tree snakes that have caused enormous ecological as well as economic harm to Guam.

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