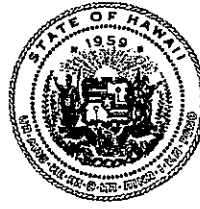
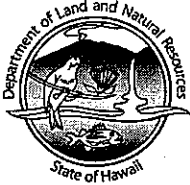


NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of**  
**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
**Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on**  
**AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, February 01, 2012**  
**8:00am**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1943**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1943 proposes an appropriation of general revenues to create a detection and prevention program within the Department of Agriculture (DOA) by contracting private dog handlers to cross-train dogs to detect a variety of invasive species. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports the intent of this measure and defers to DOA on the best approach for the development, acquisition of dogs, funding and staffing needs associated with a dog detection and prevention program.

House Bill 1943 is similar to House Bill 1748, except that the detection program created is not referred to as a "pilot" program, and presumably the program proposed in House Bill 1943 is intended to be a more long-term effort. A previous canine inspection program at DOA was discontinued in recent years due to funding cuts, exposing the State to increased risk of introductions of environmentally damaging species such as the brown tree snake. DLNR recognizes the severe impacts that invasive species, including the brown tree snake, could have on the State's natural resources and public health and safety. DLNR welcomes the enhancement of invasive species detection and prevention capacity through the development of long-term programs.

In regard to the measures language in SECTION 2 requiring a contract with private dog handlers within the State to provide and cross-train dogs to detect invasive species, DLNR defers to DOA and their past experience on developing and training detector dogs on the best approach to take, and if greater flexibility is needed, to allow wider out-sourcing for dogs and training, or development of greater internal capacity.

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB1943

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: Yes  
Submitted by: Kristine Lesperance  
Organization: Oahu Detection Dog Services, LLC  
E-mail: [sardogs@gmail.com](mailto:sardogs@gmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

**Oahu Detection Dog Services, LLC**

Kristine G. Lesperance, Ph.D.

Master Trainer

[sardogs@gmail.com](mailto:sardogs@gmail.com)

*Providing canine detection services to find invasive as well as endangered species.*

**Rationale**

In less than two weeks in summer of 2011, **13 illegal reptiles** were seized in our state, 11 on Oahu:

- A ball python
- Two boa constrictors
- Two albino Burmese pythons
- Three bearded dragons
- One blue tongued skink
- One tegu lizard
- One iguana
- Two Leopard geckos **with eggs**

While some of these were seized per the amnesty program, others such as the bull snake last week have been found loose or in the wild.

Federal legislation is attempting to stop the import of Burmese pythons to Florida and other states **TOO LITTLE TOO LATE**. The Burmese python numbers in the hundreds of thousands in Florida and are now wild born, making control near impossible in the subtropical vegetation and terrain. Researchers determined that in the Everglades, the cost of one python feeding once on an endangered species (the Wood Stork) can be quantified to over **\$6,000,000 per year!** (Smith, Sementelli, Mishaka, Jr., & Engeman, 2007).

The Brown Tree Snake is a tremendous threat, especially with increased military flights from Guam:

- Destroyed Guam's native birds, lizards, one mammal species
- Has a toxic bite to infants and children
- Causes \$4.5 million in annual power outage costs on Guam
- **Estimated to cause in excess of \$4,000,000 in annual power outage costs in Hawai'i** should the Brown Tree Snake become established (Stanford, 2012).

**Professional Profile and Accomplishments**

I train both detection and search and rescue canines in addition to teaching doctoral level leadership courses. A Hawai'i based small business owner, I am dedicated to providing sustainable, highly trained local professional detection dog services, particularly in the area of conservation detection.

Current and past actions include:

- Contracted to assist in population density study of Hawaiian Petrels utilizing canine detection in pilot approach
- Conducted pilot program with Army Natural Resources in canine detection of *Euglandina rosea* (Rosy Wolf Snail)
- Master Trainer, Hawaii State Civil Defense US&R Canine Unit 2003-2008
- Provided search and rescue training and national certification evaluations to Makati Rescue and Philippine K9 SAR Association 2006-2008
- Responded for HPD Missing Persons, NCIS, and the AG's Cold Case Task Force 2004-2006
- Developed established canine responder groups in Washington and Hawai'i
- Archeology/Historical Remains Detection Canine Handling, Lincoln County, Washington
- Certified mission ready human remains detection dogs in California, Washington, and Hawai'i
- Responded to over 100 live and human remains detection cases in Washington, Idaho, and Montana (mission reports available upon request for closed cases, most notably the Valerie Jackson Case)

### **Proposal**

Given the expense and limitations of a Department of Agriculture canine program trained for the detection of the Brown Tree Snake, the state may wish to contract with private professional detection services trained to detect multiple invasive species thus increasing application throughout multiple state agencies, and thus avoid:

Canine procurement costs

Travel costs for personnel to receive initial and ongoing training

Canine Veterinary Care

Facilities/Kennel Fees

Care and Maintenance costs and time

Further Disadvantages: Canines trained on one odor source/one species; limited by civil service contract; training takes place during the work day, limiting deployment time; one year proposal.

Oahu Detection Dog Services provides dogs **cross trained on several invasive species**. These dogs and handlers can respond at any hour to search cargo, ships, boats, planes, vehicles, luggage, residences, yards, parks, roadsides, and even wilderness areas. New scent (odor) targets can be trained by the Oahu Detection Dog Master Trainer when the need arises.

Oahu Detection Dog Services, LLC provides highly trained dogs and handlers and absorbs training time and costs, all maintenance and facilities costs, charges no night nor holiday differential, and can respond on call if so contracted.

### **Estimated Contract Factors**

Contract Length

Number of Dog and Handler Teams  
Minimum 4 hour deployment  
Type of search (wilderness, urban, industrial)  
Rates: \$50-\$100/hr

Stanford, J. (2012). *Stalking snakes: Days and nights in the life of a Brown Tree Snake rapid responder*. USGS.  
Retrieved from: <http://www.fort.usgs.gov/stalkingsnakes/>.

Smith, H.T., Sementelli, A, Meshaka, Jr., W.E., & Engeman, R. M. (2007). Reptile pathogens of the Florida Everglades: The associated costs of the Burmese Python. *Endangered Species Update* 24(3).



COORDINATING GROUP ON  
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
8:00 a.m., Conference Room 312  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of HB 1943

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 1943, *Relating to Invasive Species***. 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. The Guam build-up and increase in importance of Asia in trade and military matters means that we are increasingly vulnerable to invasion by brown treesnake and other pest species. Although USDA Wildlife Services conducts searches and trapping for brown treesnakes in cargo and areas around ports of exit on Guam, they do not inspect 100% of cargo and conveyances that are bound for Hawai'i. Additionally, there are recent examples of snakes that have made it past these interdiction measures. We must take responsibility for protecting our shores, and detector dogs with trained handlers are the most effective tools available.

As a comment, the bill lists contracting with private dog handlers in state, it may be more difficult and expensive than working with established federal dog inspector training programs. However, we defer to HDOA in this matter. 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 Relating to Invasive Species  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00AM, Rm. 312

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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 and its purpose to provide support for State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to reinstate its dog detector program. We defer to HDOA as to whether this measure or H.B. 1747 would better serve this purpose.

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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hashem1 - Julie

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 30, 2012 8:45 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** jenlucien@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HB1943 on 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/1/2012 8:00:00 AM HB1943

Conference room: 312  
Testifier position: Support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Jennifer Lucien  
Organization: Individual  
E-mail: [jenlucien@hotmail.com](mailto:jenlucien@hotmail.com)  
Submitted on: 1/30/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee;

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of tHB 1943.

Invasive species have tremendous negative impact, including long-term economic harm to nurseries, farmers, and private land owners. As the State's economic outlook improves it is crucial to shore up on DOA programs to fight invasive species. Please consider adding more inspectors in addition to restoring important funding.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lucien