



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014
9:20 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1716
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL,
OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1716. This bill will provide funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), for the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.

Hawaii faces many invasive species threats across the islands, including the little fire ant, coffee berry borer, and the coconut rhinoceros beetle. HISC provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state, federal, and international agencies for the control and eradication of such invasive species. HISC is an essential component to combat invasive species in Hawaii.

HDOA supports this measure, but defers to HISC as to how the proposed funding would be allocated.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, January 30, 2014
9:20 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1716
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING**

House Bill 1716 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support strategic, statewide invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning projects. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

As an island state, Hawaii faces a broad array of invasive species problems, including stinging fire ants, rapidly growing invasive plants that alter watershed forest composition and function, marine algae that smother our coral reefs, and mosquitoes that may carry deadly diseases. Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's environment, agriculture and economy, and to the health and way of life of Hawaii's people.

The HISC is administratively housed at the Department. The Executive Budget request currently includes \$1,000,000 in supplemental funds for the HISC, to be added to \$750,000 that was previously appropriated for Fiscal Year (FY) 15 at the start of this biennium. With recent discoveries of new invasive species infestations, the Governor and the Department are now supporting the \$5,000,000 supplemental appropriation proposed in the joint priority package. This is the amount calculated by HISC support staff to maintain project capacity and function in FY15. The Department supports this additional appropriation measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.

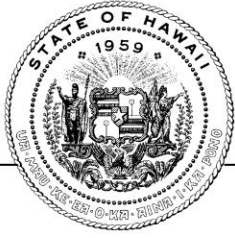
The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

JESSE K. SOUKI
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, January 30, 2014
9:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 1716
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES
PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.**

Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture.

On behalf of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), the Office of Planning (OP) serves as a voting member of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). HISC is a State interdepartmental collaboration created to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. OP supports HB1716 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our Executive Budget.

OP administers HRS Chapter 205A, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law under which one of its tasks is the preparation and update of the Ocean Resources Management Plan

(ORMP), a statewide, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional plan to achieve comprehensive and integrated ocean and coastal resources management. The 2013 update of the ORMP has identified two (2) marine resource goals to:

1. Minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species from bays where there is coral or water quality degradation.
2. Minimize the likelihood of aquatic invasive species introductions and spread into and within Hawaii from sources associated with vessels.

OP supports the efforts of HISC to address goals for the reduction and management of invasive aquatic species to protect the threat of negative impacts to Hawaii's critical ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Jessica Wooley, Chair
Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in **support** of HB1716:
Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning.

House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, January 30, 2013 9:20 AM, Room 312

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee supports HB1716 which would provide critical funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to keep Hawaii's forests and watersheds healthy.

There are a multitude of invasive species threats facing Hawaii currently. Some will significantly impact agriculture, like the coffee berry borer; our quality of life, like the loud calls of the Coqui frog; or rare and threatened native species, like the Coconut rhinoceros beetle; while other invasive species will impact all aspects of life here in the islands, like little fire ant. Without an increase in funding, state conservation organizations cannot keep up with survey and control efforts for these highly destructive and costly invaders. Hawaii will lose the ecosystem services that a healthy native forest provides, its economic base provided by agriculture and tourism and native species only found on these islands.

Climate change is an impending and unparalleled threat to natural ecosystems in Hawaii and to each person who relies on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. In Hawai'i, science indicates that climate change impacts will include frequent and severe storms, an increase in runoff and siltation; even with more storm there will be less rainfall overall which will impact fresh water supplies; and an increase in the average temperatures which will potentially benefit and increase the establishment of invasive species. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Hawaii's native forests are thick with undergrowth that anchors soil to mountain, preventing erosion and ensuring that rainwater is percolated into the island's aquifer, replenishing our water supply. Invasive plants kill off this understory, leaving our island vulnerable. Keeping the watershed healthy requires hiring staff to go out and remove invasive plants. This bill will create jobs while protecting Hawaii from negative impacts of climate change.

This funding will support on-the-ground invasive species surveys and control that protect the island of O'ahu and the State from watershed-destroying weeds and will create conservation careers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Julia Parish,
on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1716 Relating to an Appropriation for Invasive Species
Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, January 30, 2014, 9:20 AM, Room 312

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 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.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1716 and its proposed funding for the invasive species programs of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council.

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. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. Indeed, the colonization rate of introduced insects and mites in Hawai'i has been estimated at 500 times the rate of the continental United States.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) provides a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species policy and funding including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs. This effort necessarily results in important coordination, collaboration, and prioritization amongst government agencies and partners based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic and agricultural harm, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this critical funding measure.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge
Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Wayne K. Minami A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk H. Monty Richards Chet A. Richardson
Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

Chair: Kenton T. Eldridge *Chair Emeriti:* Samuel A. Cooke (co-founder; chair 1980-1991), Herbert C. Cornuelle (co-founder), Bill D. Mills (1991-1995), Jeffrey N. Watanabe (1995-2004), David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011)



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

January 30, 2014, 9:20 A.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1716

Aloha Chair Wooley and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, with over 12,000 dues paying members and supporters statewide, **supports** HB 1716. The measure provides \$5 million for invasive species prevention.

Adequate funding for the control and prevention of invasive species has been lacking for too long. As a result, Hawai'i's residents, businesses, and agricultural operations are footing the bill. Estimates by one state biologist show that alien pests cost residents and the agriculture industry upwards of \$400 million annually.

Hawai'i is losing the war on alien species. Some alien species, such as miconia, threaten to destroy watersheds and native ecosystems, jeopardizing freshwater supplies and pushing species to extinction. Other alien species, such as the coqui frog and dengue and its carriers, threaten our health, tourist industry, and our quality of life.

Invasive pests from the Asia and the U.S. mainland wreck havoc on native ecosystems. The cost—both economic and environmental—of introduced species in Hawai'i is astronomical. Tourism, agriculture, native species, and citizens' way of life are threatened with each new introduction. Sufficient funding to reduce introductions is clearly warranted; this is one area where an ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 9:53 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nwong@99imperial.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1716 on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM*

HB1716

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Napualani Wong | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

onishi2-Micah-Seth

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2014 11:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1716 on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM*

HB1716

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 312

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lyn Howe | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov