

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
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, January 27, 2014
9:30 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1904
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1904 proposes to appropriate \$2,000,000 in general funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) for outreach regarding and the prevention and eradication of invasive species on Hawaii Island. 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. Hawaii Island, in particular, has the State's largest populations of little fire ants, coqui frogs, and the invasive plant *Miconia calvescens*. The Department supports invasive species prevention, control, and outreach on Hawaii Island, but notes that the State of Hawaii faces serious invasive species threats on all islands. The Department suggests that an appropriation for invasive species control on Hawaii Island be considered within the context statewide needs for invasive species control.

The Department also notes that the Executive Budget request includes \$1,000,000 in supplemental funds for HISC, to be added to \$750,000 that was previously appropriated for Fiscal Year 15 at the start of this biennium. The Department supports the Executive Budget request, but recognizes and appreciates 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 supports efforts underway to increase overall funding for invasive species by \$5 million and would recommend that any additional funding for specific projects under this bill does not adversely impact such efforts.

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
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ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Commenting on H.B. 1904 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Water and Land
Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:30AM, Room 325

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 of Hawai'i submits the following comments regarding H.B. 1904 Relating Invasive Species.

We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to invasive species, particularly on Hawai'i island, and we support a strong and coordinated response to address these invasions.

However, we hope that the necessary response to the pest issues on Hawai'i island will not prevent the State and its partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to pest issues across the islands. The task of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is to provide a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs. This effort necessarily results in prioritization based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic harm, and the threat to the health and function of the environment.

We are also concerned about unintended financial impacts. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui control was really a shifting of existing funds from other invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that this Committee and the Legislature avoid a piecemeal response and instead take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address the full range of invasive species priorities across the state.

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*To Protect & Promote
Sustainable Public
Hunting in Hawaii*

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:30am

OPPOSE H.B. 1904

Relating to Invasive Species Funding

The Hawaii Hunting Association **STRONGLY OPPOSES** HB1904
There is already too much money spent on a message that is completely biased and distorted regarding invasive species and our **GAME ANIMAL RESOURCES**.

Game animals are **RESOURCES** and none of these efforts make that distinction, nor the distinction that Game Animals that are impacting resources are doing so at the **FAILURE** of DLNR to appropriately manage wildlife and wildlife resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

Tom Lodge



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Sustainable Public
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Committee on Water & Land

Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:30am

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Aloha,

Tom Lodge

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

OPPOSING H.B. 1904

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014, 9:30AM, ROOM 325

*The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all
our natural resources.*

<http://www.hawaiisportsmensalliance.com/>

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance is very concerned about the language of this bill.

All of us understand the necessity for control of non-value added introduced and invasive species. We understand the necessity for control of such plants, insects and pathogens. However our game animals can be cast into the category of unwanted invasive and injurious species.

Currently, the HISC has yet to formally define species that are invasive in Hawaii. Please look at their website.

The potential for such an outcome is unacceptable.

If this bill moves forward animals that are currently designated as game animals would need to be exempt and so stated in the language of the bill.

If this bill moves forward hopefully it will reflect the will of the people and rectify the game animal concern.

As currently written, the Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance cannot support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our view.

Respectably submitted,

Abraham Sylvester
Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance
614 Haihai St
Hilo, HI. 96720

HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

OPPOSING H.B. 1904

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2014, 9:30AM, ROOM 325

*The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance strives for balanced conservation and wise use of all
our natural resources.*

<http://www.hawaiisportsmensalliance.com/>

The Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance is very concerned about the language of this bill.

All of us understand the necessity for control of non-value added introduced and invasive species. We understand the necessity for control of such plants, insects and pathogens. However our game animals can be cast into the category of unwanted invasive and injurious species.

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Thank you for your consideration of our view.

Respectably submitted,

Abraham Sylvester
Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance
614 Haihai St
Hilo, HI. 96720



*To Protect & Promote Sustainable
Public Hunting in Hawaii*

Testimony from The Hawaii Hunting Association

Committee on Water & Land

Monday, January 27, 2014, 9:30am

OPPOSE - H.B. 1904

Relating to Invasive Species

Hawaii is the only state in the United States without a game management plan. It would be more prudent to use \$2 million to implement sound game management practices. With proper game management, DLNR would have the opportunity to try new methods other than eradication. Currently, game animals on Hawaii Island are deemed invasive and injurious. They are being shot and left to rot.

Hawaii Hunting Association **strongly opposes** H.B. 1904. It is a good thing to educate the public about invasive species, are they going to educate our children about the methods being used to eradicate? Such as animals being shot from helicopters and left to die? Or miles of fencing that trap and ensnare animals, causing them to die slowly of thirst and starvation. Is that why we need \$2 million to educate?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Michelle Gasmien

Secretary

Hawaii Hunting Association



Monday, January 27, 2014

Relating To House Bill 1904
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lowen, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB1904 Relating to Invasive Species**, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014.

The mission of the HISC is to identify gaps in the various state invasive species programs and its projects are a testing ground for new methods to increase the State's capacity to address invasive species. Over time, state agencies are expected to incorporate HISC-developed methods into their own programs, allowing HISC resources to be redirected to further develop and promote innovation in the fight against invasive species.

While the Party supports this legislation, the HISC is a statewide agency that requires funding for statewide program development and appropriations should not be limited to the island of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii.

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 9:40 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: bsager42@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Sager	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The HISC aims to maintain a comprehensive overview of issues and implement a state-wide invasive species prevention, early detection and control program for terrestrial and aquatic invaders. The focus is on programmatic and capacity shortfalls not currently addressed by state agencies. HISC's mission is to identify gaps in the invasive species programs of state agencies and funded projects will be a testing ground for new methods and capacity to address invasive species. Over time agencies are expected to incorporate HISC developed systems in their programs, thereby freeing up HISC resources to further promote innovation and address gaps in the overall effort to effectively manage invasive species. This coordination is vital to help state agencies work together effectively address invasive species issues. HISC is an agency with Statewide responsibilities. Ear marking funding for only the Big Island severely impacts HISCs ability to fulfill its statewide mission.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 9:16 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: keithsakatas@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephaine Sakata	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I Stephaine Sakata along with my husband Jonah Sakata and my two sons Keith and Archer Sakata strongly oppose HB 1904. The bill states \$2,000,000 is to be used to educate the public of invasive species prevention and eradication on the island of Hawai'i. I really would like the representatives to look at this bill long and hard. How about we give this \$2,000,000 to the schools on Hawai'i island instead. The locals know what this money is really going to be used for..the helicopter fuel to continue the eradication. It will not be used for education of any kind that will do any good for the people of Hawai'i. \$2,000,000 this is the a disguise by the invasive species council to get more funding to be spread to different DLNR organizations. DLNR should mange their own budgets and provide transparency to the taxpayers. I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for taking your time to read this.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 9:00 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: ilojerry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jerry Ilo		Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Jerry Ilo. I am the owner of Babooze Bowstrings. I am a lifetime Outdoorsman and Hawaii Hunters Ed. Program Volunteer Instructor for 4 years. I strongly oppose HB1904. \$2,000,000.00 is a ridiculous amount to spend on "education" of invasive species. I believe the money may be better appropriated to our public school system. Mahalo, Jerry Ilo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 10:04 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: reo9mm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
russell ryan rudel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Why waste all that money on something that nobody wants or agrees with, killing ungulates and fencing off is NOT the answer! Spread that 2 million between our schools! Or build a new park or Something else.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 4:19 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: kohatsu_ryan@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ryan Kohatsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I, Ryan Kohatsu, strongly oppose HB 1904. The bill directly states \$2,000,000 are to be used on "education" of invasive species prevention and eradication on the island of Hawaii. \$2,000,000? for the invasive species "education" on one island? This is seriously unacceptable and I urge the representatives to reevaluate this bill. Does any local elementary school on this island even get a \$2million dollar budget for "education?" How could it possibly cost \$2million a year to "educate" the public on things like this? The local population of Hawaii will not be fooled by this wording of education. We know very well that this money will likely be "re-routed" into some fashion to support the "removal work" instead of the "education" it was intended for. If the invasive species council wants money for the removal work, they should clearly state that on the bill and not disguise this as "education." This invasive species council is clearly a method to garner more funding under a different name and to provide trickle down funding to the various organizations of DLNR. The core organizations of DLNR should appropriate their own annual budgets and provide transparency to the taxpayers this way. On the above statements, I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

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I, Alan Nakagawa, strongly oppose HB 1904. The bill directly states \$2,000,000 are to be used on "education" of invasive species prevention and eradication on the island of Hawaii. I have worked in education for over 33 years teaching environmental education and biology. If this were truly an educational program shouldn't the requested funds be directed to the Department of Education? \$2,000,000 for the invasive species "education" on one island? Over the thirty plus years in the classroom teaching science I have never seen any educational programs from the invasive species council. What qualifies them (or DLNR for that matter) to receive this kind of funding to create educational programs? The money should be put where it would make an impact and not to the DLNR that may be able to put together a public relations program but not an educational program. Does any public school on this island even get a two million dollar budget for educational programs? I know that my classroom budget for instructional materials typically runs less than .02% of 2 million dollars! How could it possibly cost \$2million a year to "educate" the public on things like this?

I do not appreciate, and the people of Hawaii Island will not be fooled to think that these funds are being used for education. We know very well that this money will likely be "re-routed" into some fashion to support "eradication" instead of the "education" it is appropriated for. If the invasive species council wants money for the removal work, they should clearly state that on the bill and not disguise this as "education." It should also specifically state the targeted invasive species that funding is intended to address. This invasive species council is clearly a method to garner more funding under a different name and to provide trickle down funding to the various organizations of DLNR. The core organizations of DLNR should appropriate their own annual budgets and provide transparency to the taxpayers this way.

Once again I strongly oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Nakagawa
65-1156 Spencer Road
Kamuela Hawaii 96743

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 24, 2014 7:25 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/24/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 11:23 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: manueliv1990@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
manuel soares iv	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: \$2,000,000 for education on something that has been going on for years the eradication of innocent species for a native species that has consistently declined even with all the eradication efforts? What a waste of natural resources and money. Seriously if they are going to give the state this much money for education of invasive species, why not give the money to schools for better educational materials for students to use. It only makes more sense instead of taking away public recreations, cultures, and killing innocent species. Native species have been declining and will decline with or without invasive species. So why eradicate innocent species for something that's inevitably going to fail? Why waste \$2,000,000 on education of invasive species?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 1:12 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: tcuyo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyrel Cuyo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I'm sure most people of Hawaii don't take the time to voice their opinion on these important matters but on behalf of myself as a hunter of Hawaii I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1904

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COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

Rep. Cindy Evans, Chair

Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair

Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen

Rep. Calvin K.Y. Say

Rep. Faye P. Hanohano

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami

Rep. Richard Lee Fale

Rep. Chris Lee

Rep. Cynthia Thielen

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Representatives sitting on Water & Land Committee.

The purpose of this Act: HB1904 is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii invasive species council to be used for education regarding the prevention and eradication of invasive species on the island of Hawaii.

In this Act, there is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000 or so much thereof, as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014—2015 to the Hawaii invasive species council for the purposes of education regarding and the prevention and eradication of invasive species on the island of Hawaii.

The sum of \$2,000,000 dollars is excessively over estimated; leaving the mechanism of misappropriating of these funds for that reason. Yes, it is true the State's budget has recently been determined to be in the black; however, the State's economy is fragile from the long economic downturn; whereby, to allow excessive appropriations such as requested therein this bill: HB1904, would be grossly negligent.

The sum appropriated should be reduced to \$1,000,000 dollars accordingly. Paramount, the funds should be expended invariantly by the department of education for the purposes of this Act, and not by the department of land and natural resources. As, the department of land and natural resources will misappropriate these funds from the source it was conceived to address, education.

In appreciation of your public service work and as a constituent of the committee chair, I request you would reduce the amount of the request funds, and redirect the entity by which these funds shall be expended through. I **oppose** this Act as it currently stands.

Very truly yours,

Cleon M. Bailey

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 4:58 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: nanihawaii@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 2:23 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: misc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teya Penniman	Maui Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: MISC supports additional resources for outreach and education about invasive species on the island of Hawaii to the extent such funds would be in addition to and not in lieu of other funding initiatives for invasive species work in the Hawaiian Islands.

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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014
STATE OF HAWAII**

H.B. NO.1904

To: The Hawaii State Legislature

I OPPOSE HB1904

Subject: Invasive Species; Appropriation

Purpose: Appropriates funds for FY 2014-2015 to the Hawaii invasive species council for education regarding and the prevention and eradication of invasive species on the island of Hawaii.

Summary: The monies could be used elsewhere and could be more beneficial to the wider public than educating people who are already well aware of the issues. Money could be better spent utilizing better control methods when we are importing goods from out of state/country. Coqui frog and fire ants as an example of which they were not contained or eliminated and have now flourished in the neighbor islands. Currently we have reservations on the exact definition of invasive species. There are animals and plants that have been brought over that are of great significance and value to the people of Hawai 'i.

Paul Bueltmann

Date: 1/12/14

Address: PO Box 5535 Hilo Hi 96720

Email: paul.bueltmann@gmail.com

Phone: _____

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 25, 2014 5:50 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: chadmata84@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/25/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chad mata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 6:14 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: unmanib@maui.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Unmani Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2014 7:01 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: dgh70@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/27/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Hanners	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Misguided use of our tax dollars. Poor application of money, we need a better plan.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 26, 2014 8:41 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1904 on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM

HB1904

Submitted on: 1/26/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 27, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Comments Only	No

Comments: On HB1904 BIISC defers to the testimony of the HISC and DLNR. BIISC supports significant increases in funding to improve the knowledge base, awareness, engagement, and initiative among specific stakeholder groups and the general public to prevent and control the spread of invasive species. Providing these funds to the HISC initiates a competitive process, ensuring that highly qualified and adequately staffed organizations ultimately receive, expend, and report on the success of funded education campaigns. A short list of the many worthy organizations on the island of Hawaii combat and educate the public about invasive species: BIISC, which focuses on the highest risk economic and human health impacts, and early detection/rapid response efforts. The Hawaii Ant Lab, which develops methods, produces guides, and trains the community to detect and control the Little Fire Ant. Plant Pono and the Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment, working collaboratively with the horticulture industry to "know before you grow" and receive an endorsement for getting it right. The Watershed Partnerships, which work across the highest value native forests to remove established invasive species threatening native biodiversity and the islands' water supply, and have actively engaged a generation of Hawaii's students in the forest and in the classroom. The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of UH (CTAHR), which provides active, hands-on extension services to producers of locally grown food and agricultural products. The Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, with a forty year history of working to protect cultural and natural biodiversity in the Pacific while encouraging a sustainable economy. The Department of Agriculture, which employs some of the most highly trained, experienced, critically important, and underfunded people and programs in Hawaii Government. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife, which manages multiple conflicting priorities and requires far greater resources to communicate the reasoning behind their management activities. The Division of Aquatic Resources, engaging an international fishing fleet in the battle against aquatic pests that harm our reefs and fisheries. The Hawaii Department of Health, whose vector control branch provides critical, time-sensitive information to the public, but only if those positions are funded. There are far too many partners and cooperators in the fight against invasive species to name, and each works diligently with extremely limited funds to educate the people of Hawaii, to protect Hawaii.

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.

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