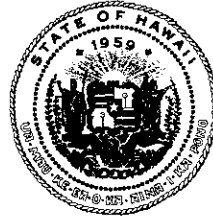


NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013
8:30AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 17, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO FOSSIL FUELS**

Senate Bill 17, Senate Draft 2 proposes to add a new definition of "fossil fuel" to and amends definition of "distributor" in section 243-1, HRS. Amends section 243-3.5, HRS, to levy the environmental response, energy, and food security tax on liquid or gaseous fossil fuels. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this bill.**

Revenues from the environmental response, energy, and food security tax support the inspection staff of the Department of Agriculture (DOA)'s Plant Quarantine Branch, which offers the first line of defense in ensuring that damaging pests do not enter the State. This function supports the efforts not only of DOA but also DLNR.

Following the economic downturn in Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, DOA's inspection staff was reduced. The function of these inspectors is so critical to the health of Hawaii's environment that DLNR, via the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council, provided funds to DOA in FY10 to stem the loss of a number of these inspector positions.

Prevention of invasive pests at our borders prevents those species from subsequently invading native ecosystems and forests. Invasive species control is critical for protecting forests that supply drinking water for the State. An investment in invasive species prevention through the support of inspector capacity saves the State from much larger costs of invasive species control once species establish in our forests.

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
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

SHAN TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor



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Testimony of the HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Before the House Committees on ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

Tuesday, March 19 2013
8:30 AM
Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 325

In consideration of SENATE BILL 17 SD2, RELATING TO FOSSIL FUELS

Senate Bill 17 SD2 would amend Chapter 243, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide an expanded definition of fossil fuels that includes liquid, gaseous and solid forms. The bill would also amend the allocations of revenues from the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax, though in SD2 the amount of individual allocations have been left blank. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

The original intent of the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax was to support the capacity of the State to respond to environmental threats and to support the development of clean energy and local agriculture, thereby decreasing Hawaii's dependence on imported fossil fuels and agricultural goods. Currently, however, a large portion of revenues from this tax are directed toward the general fund.

With regard to tax allocation amendments in SB17, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council believes the language from SB1088 provides an appropriate description of the use of these revenues. This language suggests the use of the \$1.05/barrel tax specifically for environmental response, energy, and food security programs, including 10 cents for the environmental response revolving fund, 42.5 cents for the energy security special fund, 10 cents for the energy systems development special fund, and 42.5 cents for the food security special fund.

The funds supported by these revenues help protect Hawaii from invasive species threats, including through the support of the Department of Agriculture's capacity to inspect incoming goods for new invasive pests. The apiary program within the Department of Agriculture supports the identification and mitigation of damaging pests to Hawaii's honey and

queen bee industries, such as varroa mite or small hive beetle. Support for the environmental response fund at the Department of Health also provides capacity to respond to invasive species threats, including the discovery of mosquitoes or other invasive species that may be vectors of human health diseases such as malaria or yellow fever.

As an island state, the ability to support clean energy, local agriculture, and response to environmental threats is critical to maintaining Hawai'i's economy, environmental, and way of life.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is an interagency collaboration established by Chapter 194, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, for the purpose of cabinet-level direction on invasive species prevention, control, research, and outreach issues in Hawai'i.