



LATE

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**H.B. 1716, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES
PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING**

**Testimony of Linda Rosen, M.D., M.P.H.
Director of Health**

**March 25, 2014
9:05 a.m.**

1 **Department's Position: COMMENTS.**

2 **Fiscal Implications:** Requests \$5,000,000.00 in general funds for invasive species prevention, control,
3 outreach, research, and planning.

4 **Purpose and Justification:** This appropriation is necessary to protect Hawaii's economy and
5 environment from the threat of invasive species like the brown tree snake, little fire ant, and dengue
6 mosquito (*Aedes aegypti*). Invasive species can cause incalculable damage to the environment and pose
7 threats to human health, requiring an immediate and well-planned response. The appropriation in this
8 measure will allow the State to retain the capacity that it has built over the last several years to research,
9 plan, and coordinate responses that prevent and mitigate the impact of invasive species and protect
10 natural resources.

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12 Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important measure.