



February 18, 2014

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Support of SB 2343 Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning (Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning).

Wednesday, February 19, 2014, at 9:15 a.m., in Conference Room 211

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of SB 2343**.

SB 2343. This bill proposes to appropriate out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$5,000,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2014-2015 to be expended on projects undertaken in accordance with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), including but not limited to invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

LURF's Position. The purpose of this measure is to provide funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), as administrative host of the HISC, for the immediate protection of Hawaii's environment, economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.

The HISC is an inter-departmental collaboration comprised of the DLNR, the State Departments of Agriculture, Health, Transportation, Business and Economic Development & Tourism and the University of Hawaii. The HISC was established in 2003 for the special purpose of providing 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. The HISC fulfills its mandate by issuing resolutions, providing plans, and strategically disbursing funds to enhance invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research.

Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, native species and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Axis deer and goats eat native plants and agricultural products and their hooves cause break-up soil and cause erosion. Invasive plants such as Miconia and Fountain Grass quickly spread, prevent the growth of native species and other plants and promote erosion. Little Fire Ants cause injury to humans and pets and lost crops and native species. HISC cautions that Brown Tree Snakes could cause the extinction of Hawaii's native bird species and could cost an estimated \$2.14 billion a year in damages to electrical infrastructure and medical costs related to snake bites.

According to HISC, invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varona mite, now threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

The 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) study titled "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species" estimated the annual cost to address invasive species issues in Hawaii at \$50,000,000. Pursuant to the LRB study, the original goal for an annual HISC budget was \$5,000,000 from the general fund, though the initial approved appropriation in fiscal year 2005 was only \$2,000,000. LURF understands that during fiscal years 2010-2013, no general funds were provided. In fiscal year 2014, \$750,000 was provided from the general fund.

A large increase in appropriated funds for DLNR and HISC is immediately necessary to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. SB 2343 would provide such funding for invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning for the protection of Hawaii's environment, economy and the health and lifestyle of its people.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports SB 2343** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



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Supporting SB 2343: An Appropriation to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council
Senate Finance Committee
February 19, 2014 9:15 am Conf Room 211

Thank you for convening this hearing to consider a substantial investment in invasive species management throughout our state. The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) strongly supports this bill.

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens, community organizations, businesses, land owners, and local, state, and federal government agencies organized to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the spread of the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

Our work is guided by committed agency representatives and subject matter experts, and includes regular dialog with government and community leaders. The island-based committee structure provides the mechanism by which invasive species problems can be openly discussed and addressed in innovative, collaborative, and mutually beneficial ways. We work island-wide to empower communities to control invasive species in their neighborhoods and advocate for proactive invasive species management. Our highly trained rapid response team is quickly mobilized to address new threats or add manpower to state agency-led projects in a comprehensive, effective manner

Along with the other island invasive species committees, we are major recipients of HISC funds. On the island of Hawaii, HISC funds more than 50% of our operations. BIISC raises the remainder, nearly half a million dollars per year, from federal and private funders. This out-of-state funding stream is made possible by demonstrating the HISC investment in our programs as matching funds, and allows the ISCs to work on projects that may be specific to just one county.

Over the past five years of economic downturn BIISC has persevered with limited funds. We have dispatched every confirmed sighting of Axis Deer on the island; trained conservation partners in using Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) control techniques; eradicated four high risk plant species; achieved annual benchmarks for the eradication of six other high risk species; surveyed more than 4000 miles of roads and identified 108 previously unrecorded species on the island; coordinated multi-agency albizia control pilot programs; trained over 60 community members to independently manage their neighborhood pest problems safely and effectively; provided internships, graduate research support, or employment for more than a dozen UH students and graduates; contributed to published research; steadily increased field efficiency; attended 250+ community events; and educated more than 5,000 members of the public about proactive management of invasive species each year.

Over the past five years, we've also cut seven positions, continued to launch baseyard operations out of a repurposed sheep shed (no electricity), maintained an aging two-bedroom plantation home as an office for up to 17 staff, and kept our 16 year old Jeep Cherokee running with constant maintenance and

wish and a prayer. By sharing resources our many partners have kept us afloat, and our remaining employees have kept their heads high, knowing it has been a tough time for all government programs.

Were a higher level of funding available, BIISC would invest in additional staff, training, and equipment to expand and speed the work of eradicating seven high risk target species and begin work on four others. We would put more resources into hands-on training of community groups to alleviate the impacts of coqui, little fire ants, and axis deer. We would ask for funds to rent, build, or renovate facilities with modern amenities, like light bulbs and telephone lines, but also high speed internet to run mapping software, and large enough to house current and added staff. We would begin work on a shared conservation baseyard in S. Kona to allow watershed partnership projects and BIISC to work effectively on a part of the island five hours' drive from our office. We would re-hire or train snake response staff to ensure that a flexible, ready response team is always available to assist lead agencies and union staff on Hawaii Island. We would expand our nursery survey program to help nurseries detect invasive pests, implement best management practices, and receive endorsement for good management. And we would continue to work to meet statewide management priorities set by the HISC.

The Hawaii Invasive Species Council plays a crucial role in coordinating and guiding the work that we do by funding only those projects that address state-level objectives. The HISC has a uniquely inclusive and rigorous process for developing statewide priorities, soliciting proposals to address those priorities, and distributing funds accordingly. The proposal review is one of the most thorough and enjoyable of all assessment processes BIISC has participated in. Applicants, which include agencies and semi-autonomous programs, are invited to defend their proposals at a meeting of all applicants and reviewers; essentially, those parties most knowledgeable about and involved in hands-on management of invasive species are called together to gently rip one another's proposals apart, in a surprisingly congenial atmosphere. You can imagine what it might be like if, instead of submitting testimony, you had a small stakeholder meeting for every bill that must be evaluated, and every statement could be questioned by anyone in the room. Following this defense, the proposals are sent to working groups and a final recommendation is made on which projects to fund or partially fund.

Throughout the year funded projects keep in constant communication with the HISC Coordinator and managers at lead agencies (e.g. the DOFAW branch manager for Axis Deer work). We turn in quarterly and annual reports documenting the use of funds and overall project accomplishments. As the invasive species committee work is highly collaborative and broad-based, our many partners are able to give regular feedback and guidance throughout the year, and of course, at the annual proposal defense, where any lapse in accomplishment will be raised.

HISC provides the direction, oversight, and inclusive review processes to ensure that a proactive investment in invasive species management is money well spent. Funding this bill at the requested amount will go a long way toward ensuring that the invasive species committees, Hawaii Ant Lab, Aquatic Invasive Species Programs, Invasive Species research and development programs, public education and outreach, little known critical support programs in information technology and plant identification, and of course Coqui Frogs and Little Fire Ants on Oahu, are able to continue their important work.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: rtb808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2343 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:21:27 AM

SB2343

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randal Bartlett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Testimony of Randy Tadashi Bartlett Supporting S.B. 2343 Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning Senate Committee on Ways and Means Wednesday, February 19, 2014, 9:15AM, Room 211 Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani & Committee Members: As a concerned taxpayer and conservation professional, I strongly support S.B. 2343 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. Mahalo nui loa no kou kokua! Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka `Aina I Ka Pono!

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: stacy.crivello@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2343 on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM
Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2014 8:02:16 AM

SB2343

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 19, 2014 09:15AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stacy Helm Crivello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am in support of the measure for the reasons stated by Maui County Council Chair Gladys Baisa submitted testimony.

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