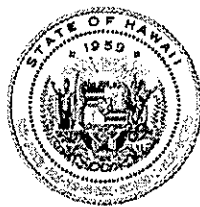


# **SCR 143 / SR 79**

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT FEDERAL  
POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE INTRODUCTION OF NON-NATIVE  
SPECIES, AND TO MANAGE AND PREVENT THE UNCONTROLLED  
PROLIFERATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

JESSEK SOUKI  
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  
KAIHOLAWA ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
and  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, March 25, 2014  
3:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 143/SENATE RESOLUTION 79  
URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT FEDERAL POLICY TO  
PROHIBIT THE INTRODUCTION OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES, AND TO MANAGE  
AND PREVENT THE UNCONTROLLED PROLIFERATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 143/Senate Resolution 79 would urge the federal government to prohibit the introduction of non-native species and to manage and prevent the uncontrolled proliferation of invasive species. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Executive Order (EO) 13112, signed by President William Clinton on February 3, 1999, defines "native species" as a species that historically occurred or currently occurs in an ecosystem, other than as a result of an introduction. E.O. 13112 further defines "alien species" as those that are not native to an ecosystem, and "invasive species" as alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. By definition, there are many non-native species that are not invasive species, meaning that they do not cause a specific economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. For example, cocoa and coffee are not native to the United States and are imported on a regular basis. The Department appreciates the intent of these resolutions to address concerns over importation of new, harmful species, but suggests that the resolutions be amended to focus on species that are invasive, rather than simply non-native.

The Department recognizes that invasive species are addressed by a variety of agencies at the federal level. This is also true at the state level, and is one of the reasons that the Legislature established the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to coordinate among agencies. Similarly, there is a National Invasive Species Council (NISC) for coordination among the various federal agencies whose mandates address invasive species

issues. The federal government assists in managing and preventing the spread of invasive species both through the NISC and through individual agency actions. For example, the United States Department of the Interior funds and coordinates the Brown Tree Snake Technical Working Group, as well as interdiction activities at points of exit on Guam that protect Hawaii from the accidental introduction of this species.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



**SCR143/SR79**

**URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO ADOPT FEDERAL POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE INTRODUCTION OF NON-NATIVE SPECIES, AND TO MANAGE AND PREVENT THE UNCONTROLLED PROLIFERATION OF INVASIVE SPECIES.**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

March 25, 2014

3:45 p.m.

Room 225

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SCR143/SR79, which urge the adoption of a federal policy to prevent and reduce the introduction and spread of invasive species in Hawai'i.

OHA notes that Hawai'i surpasses even the Galapagos Islands in native species biodiversity. Given our isolation, many of our native species are uniquely adapted to our island chain, with 90% of our native terrestrial species found nowhere else in the world. However, due to ecological displacement, disease and other impacts from introduced invasive species, we have begun to lose hundreds of our endemic plant, insect, spider and snail species, including half of our native bird species. Many other native species are at risk of the same fate; today, with less than 0.2% of the land area of the United States, the Hawaiian Islands support more than 30% of the nation's known endangered species. It is estimated that now as much as 30% of all established species in Hawai'i are introduced.

This Legislature has called invasive species the single greatest threat to our state. Federal policies that similarly acknowledge and respond to our state's unique need for biological integrity will enhance these past legislative efforts, and facilitate closer coordination between state and federal agencies in the protection of our unique, fragile and invaluable natural environment.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** SCR143/SR79. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

# HAWAII SPORTSMEN ALLIANCE

## Opposing S.C.R. No. 143/ SR79

Committee on Energy and Environment  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair

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

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Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance finds this Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 143 and Senate Resolution 79 to be quite disturbing.

**Many of our members, their families, friends and others in our community import animals such as goats, sheep, pigs and cattle to improve their herds for meat and dairy, for 4H livestock projects and recreation.**

**To classify the importation of animals as non-native species is not good.**

WHEREAS, states, organizations, agencies, and individuals are allowed to import non-native species under state laws that are different from state to state, with differing levels of permitting, monitoring, protection, management, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, the management and control of import and proliferation of non-native species would benefit from application of federal guidelines, standards, regulations, and oversight; and

WHEREAS, the control and management of the proliferation of non-native species becoming invasive species would benefit from national standards for non-native species, to include introduction criteria, non-native species management and monitoring standards, limitations on introductions and imports, and licensing and permitting of non-native species introductions; now, therefore,

**Please stop this.**

Hawaii Sportsmen Alliance  
614 Haihai St  
Hilo, Hi 96720

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2014 11:22 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** teresamlee.51@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM

**SCR143**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa L. Nakama	BIFA	Oppose	No

Comments: We oppose such a proposed bill, these livestock have been domesticated and the livelihood of families and communities have evolved here in Hawaii. The inhumane method of controlling wild livestock is wasteful and could be feeding the homeless. This is not a proposal to save any indigenous species or endemic species, all species evolve to the habitat it lives in, and we are the species that have adapted and so have our livestock animals that we feed our entire State of Hawaii and the communities. This is illogical unscientific proposal.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2014 2:59 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** sydsinger@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM

**SCR143**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Ross Singer	Good Shepherd Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments: This bill assumes there is something wrong with non-native species in Hawaii. While some introduced species become invasive, the vast majority of non-native species are beneficial or harmless, including food plants, building grade bamboos, hardwood trees, medicinal herbs, and ornamental species. Some insect and other animal species may also benefit our environment, such as pollinating insects and game animals. Given climate change and its challenges to our native species, we may have to introduce species to have healthy ecosystems and biodiversity. This bill does not differentiate between non-native species and invasive species. In addition, there are currently federal programs for the control of invasive species, making this bill redundant with those efforts. Please oppose this over-reaching and redundant bill.

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Good afternoon Representatives and Members of the Committee,

My name is Vignesh Rathnam. I am a senior political science student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and I am writing to urge your support of SCR143. This federal policy is an important protective measure which must be addressed in order to preserve and improve Hawaii's environment and ecosystem.

A habitat is one of great sensitivity and complementation. The insertion of a new species of organisms will definitely alter the current functioning ecosystem. The Non-native species may displace native organisms by preying on them or out-competing them for resources such as for food, space or both. In some cases this has led to the elimination of indigenous species from certain areas. On the rare occasion if these non-native species can reproduce with native species and produce hybrids, this will alter the genetic pool. Organisms function efficiently in their respective habitats. Food sources, temperature, indigenous plants and other natural components cannot be suddenly replaced with a new ecosystem and expected to adapt.

Hawaii has a history of introducing new invasive species into its environment without fully analyzing the environmental consequences. *Salvinia molesta* (water fern) introduced by in the early 1980's, presently found on Oahu, Kauai, Big Island, Maui has the capability to double its size and volume in a matter of days which consequently destroys habitat for native birds and reduces oxygen for aquatic species. 24 species of Alien algae was introduced into Hawaii's marine ecosystems which began to grow faster than native coral cause bio erosion and consequently killing it. These are only a few of the several cases of introducing new invasive species to Hawaii.

Native species are in danger by the newly introduced organisms into their ecosystems. This I might add also result in probably financial environmental damages which might later be addressed in the future. This would jeopardize the health and wellness of the Hawaiian residents and incoming tourists.

Nature has always proved to be unpredictable based on several mitigating factors some even unknown to science. Newly introduced organism could carry a certain strain of new bacteria or even parasite which could have uncorrectable environmental effects.

Members of the committee, by choosing to support this federal policy you will protecting Hawaii's distinct and precious wildlife native ecosystem and possible future financial and environmental damages. Hawaii's invasive species problem is the most severe of any state, and its future will highly problematic if we do not act boldly and promptly.

Sincerely,

Vignesh Rathnam



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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 20, 2014 5:14 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** lynhowe1946@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM\*

**SCR143**

Submitted on: 3/20/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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TESTIMONY OF  
**RYAN N. KOHATSU**  
MECHANICAL ENGINEER, AVID HUNTER/GATHERER

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

RELATING TO  
S.C.R. NO. 143 / SR 79  
**OPPOSE WITH COMMENTS**

Dear House Committee on Agriculture,

I OPPOSE S.C.R. NO. 143/SR 79.

While I personally, understand the threat invasive species pose to the ecosystem and livelihood of Hawaii's residents and it could be concluded that some very invasive species may have been brought over through military operations locally. I don't believe a broad stroking policy is going to address this issue beneficially.

Perhaps the committee can refer to the ideas of biocontrols and broad stroking this kind of policy can and likely will inhibit the use of biocontrols for non-native species. Also, a certain tobacco non-native plant is currently being protected and perhaps proliferated throughout the west side of Big Island for the purpose of the Mandukka caterpillar or Sphinx Moth (an endangered species) that has figured out how to survive off this invasive weed. The Sphinx Moth would have typically utilized the Aiea plant which is very rare and tougher to outplant and regenerate. In this case, a non-native species may be the only thing increasing the population of our endangered species.

I don't believe the federal government should be encouraged to limit "on the ground" operations of State entities because of broad policy. It is stated everywhere how Hawaii faces unique challenges with unique ecosystems. A non-unique broad policy and thinking is perhaps not the best method to address that.

*WHEREAS, the proliferation of non-native species like feral pigs, goats, deer and wild cattle; Asian carp; coqui frogs; snails; exotic plants; invasive aquatic and marine species; and other noxious pests extends beyond the jurisdiction of individual states.*

The above language may seek to destroy all pigs, goats, deer, and cattle. Many people keep these as livestock (which are transported) and feral or wild populations are supposed to be managed by the DLNR and where possible managed to support public hunting. The DLNR currently funds efforts for removal

and mitigation of invasive pests. It would appear there isn't anything there beyond the jurisdiction of individual states to control these.

It would also appear, from the language, that emphasis is placed on pigs, goats, deer, cattle, and other non-native ungulates. While these species can be destructive if not managed, I would also like to point out the fact that they are beneficial as well to controlling and suppressing vast areas of non-native noxious weeds that there is no specific mention of in this resolution. Fireweed threatens to wipe out many grazing pasture lands, local agriculture, and native landscapes. The current solution was a biocontrol (that is non-native) and also the only ungulates that can eat fireweed are sheep and goats. Fireweed is poisonous to cattle. The biocontrol doesn't seem to be working from what we can see as the general public, so that leaves options pretty limited. With problems that large, non-native ungulates should not be the relative focus of danger. It is a lot easier to manage ungulate populations than it is to manage an invasive weed.

Our non-native ungulates are also considered in areas of dry ground cover to mitigate the threat of large fires that could single-handedly destroy endangered species habitat and native ecosystems.

In conclusion, some of our most threatening invasive species are here to stay. The best we can do currently is manage and in many cases the cost effective solution is other non-native species that we already have established or biocontrols. Simply ambiguously creating federal policies can stifle solutions like this and the current case by case practice by the State is still perhaps the best method.

By the way, the resolution would seem contradictory in that the State is identifying with not having enough jurisdiction while urging the federal government to adopt broad stroking policies which typically remove state jurisdiction or allow for expedient changes by state agencies to changing conditions.

Sincerely,  
-Ryan Kohatsu

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 23, 2014 6:31 PM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** nanihawaii@aol.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM

**SCR143**

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: This issue is becoming excessive, while other important issues go unattended. Hawaii has many non-native "invasive species," many of which have become a part of the culture and ecosystem, since they have been here for so long. To create punishments and severe responses to life that is naturalized in Hawaii is a waste of tax payer funds, oppositional to many local residents of Hawaii, and just plain wrong! The last thing we need is more federal interference that is not in touch with the local people of Hawaii. This is a horribly oppressive idea. Even more recently arrived species are not worth bothering with, as they are not really much of a problem, like coqui frogs. They are loved by many, and do not pose nearly the problem some people make them out to be.

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, March 24, 2014 11:47 AM  
**To:** PSMTestimony  
**Cc:** voggymtn@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM

**SCR143**

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Willie-Joe Camara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose this measure. The dept of Ag already has rules to prevent importing invasive species. The people of Hawaii rely on bringing in new bloodlines of livestock for improvement of their herds. Making that illegal would be hurting the livelyhood of many ranchers and farmers alike.

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