

**HB1040, HD1**

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Tuesday, March 24, 2015  
3:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1040, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1040, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to contract the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to expand upon an economic model describing the impact and cost to mitigate the most significant invasive species in the State. This measure would also direct the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species." **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency HISC, and is currently contracting UHERO to conduct a study on the economic impacts and mitigation costs for a list of 5-10 "top pests" that will be developed as part of the contract. The project dates for this contract are January 1-December 31, 2015. This measure directs the HISC to expand upon that economic analysis utilizing additional funding in Fiscal Year 2016 and report to the Legislature on the outcome no later than 20 days prior to the 2016 Legislative Session. Because the project period to produce the initial economic analysis extends to December 31, 2015 and funding made available by this measure to expand upon that analysis would not be available until July 2015, the Department suggests that the reporting requirement in this measure be extended to a later date.

With regard to SECTION 3 of this measure, directing the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study, the Department supports this effort and notes that in 2014 the interagency HISC adopted Resolution 14-2: "Requesting a Legislative Reference Bureau Study to Update the 2002 Report Titled 'Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species'."

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
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CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



The Senate  
Committee on Energy and Environment  
March 24, 2015  
3:30 p.m., Conference Room 225  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 1040 HD1**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 1040 HD1, Relating to Invasive Species**, which appropriates funds for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to support prevention, early detection/rapid response, control, research, and public outreach projects; and directs the LRB to update its 2002 *Filling the Gaps* study.

From the CGAPS perspective, we have come a long way in the past 20 years. In the late 1990's, miconia, brown tree snakes, banana bunchy top, papaya ringspot, feral ungulates, and other harmful invasive species were making the news, and legislators came together to pass Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 45 H.D. 1 in 2001, requesting the LRB to study the issue and needs for protecting Hawai'i from invasive species. The *Filling the Gaps* study was published in January, 2002, and just six months later, then-Governor Benjamin Cayetano issued Executive Order No. 2002-03 establishing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council. Legislators passed authorizing legislation in 2003, signed by then-Governor Linda Lingle under Act 85, SLH 2003, which created HRS Chapter 194. The working group structure was set up in 2003 and the first HISC Strategic Plan was approved in 2004.

Each year since then the HISC staff, working groups, and Council members work together to discuss and identify the highest priorities in the areas of prevention, early detection/rapid response, control, research, and public outreach. Some projects are fully HISC-funded, while others that have access to federal or private funds receive a lower amount of funds, or forgo funds whenever possible. It is an amazing system of statewide, multi-agency/NGO communication, and the accomplishments are equally amazing. Whole or in part, HISC funded research & development of hot water shower boxes to treat coqui, supported the first-in-the-nation Aquatic Invasive Species Team and their work eradicating an illegal patch of octocoral that had been planted in Kāne'ohe Bay. HISC funding allowed HDOA to work with the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit to attract and hire ant specialist Dr. Cas Vanderwoude, who formed the Hawai'i Ant Lab and researched, tested, and gained approval for pesticides and application systems to control or eradicate little fire ants. HISC funding has been crucial in supporting the Invasive Species Committees on each island to work on controlling or eradicating watershed enemies like miconia. Every tree found and removed from the watershed prevents 9 million seeds per year from spreading and growing in the forest. HISC support of public outreach initiatives has also helped inform and engage the public, so that nearly 90% of residents consider invasive species a serious or somewhat serious problem, compared to just 29% of residents that had even heard of the issue in 1996.

This is a rather long letter that I hope relays some of the progress that grew out of that original LRB study. Each year the HISC works with what it receives, even when it is very little.

However, the CRB response alone will cost at least \$2.5 million this year, and there are equally costly LFA battles, miconia, coqui, albizia, coffee berry borer, and so much more that are high priorities. It is our hope that with the LRB's help, we can get a clearer picture of what is needed to get ahead of the many issues we face.

Mahalo for your time and for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Christy Martin  
CGAPS

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB1040 on Mar 24, 2015 15:30PM  
**Date:** Thursday, March 19, 2015 11:38:52 AM  
**Attachments:** [HB1040HD1\\_HISC\\_3-24-15\\_ENE.pdf](#)

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## **HB1040**

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for ENE on Mar 24, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joshua Atwood	Hawaii Invasive Species Council	Comments Only	Yes

Comments: Testimony of HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL Before the Senate Committee on ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT Tuesday, March 24, 2015 3:30 PM State Capitol, Room 225 In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1040, HD1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES House Bill 1040, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of general funds to the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to contract the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to expand upon an economic model describing the impact and cost to mitigate the most significant invasive species in the State. This measure would also direct the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species." The Hawaii Invasive Species Council offers the following comments. The HISC is currently contracting UHERO to conduct a study on the economic impacts and mitigation costs for a list of 5-10 "top pests" that will be developed as part of the contract. The project dates for this contract are January 1-December 31, 2015. This measure directs the HISC to expand upon that economic analysis, but does not provide instruction on how the analysis should be expanded. The measure would appropriate funds in Fiscal Year 2016 and requires a report to the Legislature on the outcome no later than 20 days prior to the 2016 Legislative Session. The HISC suggests that this timeline is likely not feasible, since the release of funds and subsequent encumbrance in a contract is a time consuming process that will not allow UHERO adequate time to amend their existing study, which is to be completed by December 31, 2015. The HISC suggests that if the existing contract is to be expanded upon using funds provided in Fiscal Year 2016 that the reporting requirement in SECTION 1 (b) of this measure be amended to read "no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017." With regard to SECTION 3 of this measure, directing the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study, the Department supports this effort and notes that in 2014 the interagency HISC adopted Resolution 14-2: "Requesting a Legislative Reference Bureau Study to Update the 2002 Report Titled 'Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species'."

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Written Comments

**HB1040 HD1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Comments by the Legislative Reference Bureau  
Charlotte A. Carter-Yamauchi, Acting Director

Presented to the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 3:30 p.m.  
Conference Room 225

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Good afternoon Chair Gabbard and members of the Committee, my name is Charlotte Carter-Yamauchi and I am the Acting Director of the Legislative Reference Bureau. Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit written comments on H.B. No. 1040, H.D. 1, Relating to Invasive Species.

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Require the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to execute a contract with the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization to establish an economic model formula that establishes the impact of and the cost to mitigate the most significant invasive species in the State.
- (2) Appropriate moneys to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for the contract; and
- (3) Require the Legislative Reference Bureau, in coordination with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, to update its 2002 study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species," by reporting on:
  - (A) Mitigation and eradication efforts for the invasive species identified in its report;
  - (B) Funding provided by the Legislature since fiscal year 2002-2003 to assist in mitigation and eradication efforts;
  - (C) The sufficiency of the funding; and

(D) The efficacy of the mitigation and eradication efforts.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, we submit the following comments regarding the portion of the measure that directs the Bureau to update its 2002 study for your consideration.

When the Bureau conducted its 2002 study, one of its recommendations was to establish a state invasive species administrator/coordinator position to spearhead the State's invasive species mitigation and eradication efforts. In response to this recommendation, the Legislature established the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in 2003, pursuant to Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, as an alternate means of coordinating interagency efforts to mitigate and eradicate invasive species.

According to section 194-2(a)(4), Hawaii Revised Statutes, some of the duties of the Council are to:

- (1) Maintain a broad overview of the invasive species problem in the State;
- (2) Advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between the Departments of Agriculture, Land and Natural Resources, Health, and Transportation, as well as state, federal, international, and privately organized programs and policies;
- (3) Identify and prioritize each lead agency's organizational and resource shortfalls with respect to invasive species;
- (4) After consulting with appropriate state agencies, create and implement a plan that includes the prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and education of the public with respect to invasive species, as well as fashion a mission statement articulating the State's position against invasive species;
- (5) Coordinate and promote the State's position with respect to federal issues;
- (6) Identify and record all invasive species present in the State;
- (7) Designate the Department of Agriculture, Health, or Land and Natural Resources as the lead agency for each function of invasive species control, including prevention, rapid response, eradication, enforcement, and education;
- (8) Identify all state, federal, and other moneys expended for the purposes of the invasive species problem in the State;
- (9) Identify all federal and private funds available to the State to fight invasive species and advise and assist state departments to acquire these funds;



- (10) Advise the Governor and Legislature on budgetary and other issues regarding invasive species;
- (11) Provide annual reports on budgetary and other related issues to the Legislature twenty days prior to each regular session;
- (12) Include and coordinate with the counties in the fight against invasive species to increase resources and funding and to address county-sponsored activities that involve invasive species;
- (13) Review state agency mandates and commercial interests that sometimes call for the maintenance of potentially destructive alien species as resources for sport hunting, aesthetic resources, or other values;
- (14) Review the structure of fines and penalties to ensure maximum deterrence for invasive species-related crimes;
- (15) Suggest appropriate legislation to improve the State's administration of invasive species programs and policies;
- (16) Incorporate and expand upon the Department of Agriculture's weed risk assessment protocol to the extent appropriate for the Council's invasive species control and eradication efforts; and
- (17) Perform any other function necessary.

In closely reviewing these statutory duties of the Council and the scope of the Bureau's 2002 study, it would seem that the issues identified to be updated now fall under the ongoing responsibilities of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and, consequently, it would seem that the requested update by the Bureau would overlap with the efforts of the Council. Nevertheless, if the Committee would like the Bureau to undertake the requested update, we are certainly able to do so. However, we have some concerns with the language requiring the Bureau to update its study "in coordination with the Hawaii Invasive Species Council," as such language leaves it unclear exactly what role and responsibilities the Council would have in this undertaking. To provide clarity on this issue, we would request the measure be amended to, instead, require that the Council cooperate with, and provide any requested information to, the Bureau.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Testimony Only

Submitted to the

Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 3:30 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Kimberly Burnett, Associate Specialist

University of Hawai'i Economic Research Organization

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### HB 1040 HD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1040 HD1, which appropriates moneys to the HISC to contract UHERO to establish an economic model formula to establish impact and cost of mitigating the most significant invasive species in the State; and directs the LRB to update its 2002 study to reflect costs and impact of mitigation efforts.

Invasive species pose significant threats to agriculture, natural resources, and human and animal health and well-being in Hawai'i. A recent study by the Department of Agriculture reported an average of 24 new insect species introduced to Hawai'i each year. In addition, invasive plant species threaten our native forests (e.g., miconia), and animal health (e.g., fire weed). Many of the resources of the University of Hawai'i are dedicated to combating these threats.

HB 1040 HD1 would provide funding to HISC to contract with UHERO to continue and update the FY15 study of the costs of the most significant invasive species in the State; and would also direct the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study of the impact and costs of invasive species in Hawai'i, an action requested in a number of bills this session and one that we support as a member of the HISC. The 2002 study has provided a solid basis for state action for over a decade, but needs to be updated to reflect the current situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to indicate our support for HB1040 HD1.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
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March 24, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1040 HD 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 225  
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB supports HB 1040 HD 1**, which appropriates moneys to HISC to contract UHERO to establish an economic model formula to establish impact and cost of mitigating invasive species in the State and requires LRB to update its 2002 study on invasive species.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HISC is critical for the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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**Cc:** [cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org](mailto:cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org)  
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**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2015 5:37:39 PM

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**HB1040**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE on Mar 24, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments: We urge the Legislature to stop throwing money at projects using poisons, cruel snares, traps, aerial killing; too much taxpayer \$ and too much time is being spent on torturing frogs, pigs, cats - this species "cleansing" smacks of environmental bigotry.

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**HB1040**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE on Mar 24, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii SUPPORTS THE INTENT of HB 1040, HD1, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES, which appropriates moneys to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to contract with University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization (UHERO) to establish an economic model formula to establish the impact and cost of mitigating the most significant invasive species in the State. Directs the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB), in coordination with HISC, to update its 2002 LRB study to reflect costs and impact of mitigation efforts. (HB 1040 HD1)

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1040 HD1 Relating to Invasive Species  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Tuesday, March 24, 2015, 3:30PM, Room 225

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*For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that 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, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1040 HD1. It has been a dozen years since the Legislative Reference Bureau issued its analysis on invasive species that resulted in the Legislature's establishment of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council. It makes sense to revisit and update the economic impacts of invasive species, the sufficiency of funds provided, and the efficacy of efforts since that time to best understand the threat and make informed decisions about future allocations of State resources.

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.

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.

We appreciate and support this measure requesting the LRB, with help from the UH Economic Research Organization, to update its 2002 assessment of the scope, status and costs of the problem.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**HB1040**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for ENE on Mar 24, 2015 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
James Gauer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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