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

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

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Tuesday, February 10, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1101
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1101 proposes to direct the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species" and appropriate \$100,000 from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for this purpose. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), and is an active partner in the control of invasive species from mauka to makai. The Department recognizes that the 2002 study, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species," was instrumental in shaping the State's strategy for invasive species prevention, control, research, and outreach. This report remains the State's most thorough analysis of invasive species programs and the costs associated with preventing and controlling invasive species. As the report is now 13 years old and there have been many changes in invasive species distributions and the resources available to address invasive species problems, the Department acknowledges that the study should be updated. The Department further 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
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Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting H.B. 1101 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 325

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) supports H.B. 1101 that provides funding to the Legislative Research Bureau to update its 2002 study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species". OISC could use this research to explain to the public how damaging invasive species are. The findings could also be useful in raising money with federal and private sources to leverage state funds.

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee works island-wide to remove incipient invasive species from O'ahu before they become so abundant that they begin to damage ecosystems. OISC employs 17 people that conduct early detection, systematically survey and remove incipient invasive plants, educate the public about how special Hawai'i's biota is and how to protect it and assist the Department of Agriculture to survey and control for vertebrates and invertebrates.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program
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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1101 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy 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. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1101. 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 our understanding of the economic and environmental impacts of invasive species 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 an outside contractor if needed, to update its 2002 assessment of the economic and environmental costs of problem.

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

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LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU
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Written Comments

HB1101
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES



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

Presented to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Good morning Chair Lee 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. 1101, Relating to Invasive Species.

The purpose of this measure is to update the economic and environmental costs component of the 2002 study "Filling the Gaps Against Invasive Species," to gauge the current state of the invasive species problem in Hawaii, and appropriate moneys for this purpose. The measure also authorizes the Bureau to contract the services of another entity, without regard to the procurement requirements of Chapter 103D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to provide economic modeling and other services.

While the Legislative Reference Bureau takes no position on this measure, we submit the following comments for your consideration.

In closely reviewing the current statutory duties of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and the Bureau's 2002 study, it would seem that, with two exceptions, the issues that were identified and studied in the 2002 study now fall under the ongoing responsibilities of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. These exceptions are the economic and other costs to Hawaii and the health and safety issues components of the 2002 study, both of which may likely benefit from an updated review.

Accordingly, the Committee may wish to consider amending the measure to also request an update of the health and safety issues component of the 2002 study. In addition, we would request the measure be amended to require the Council cooperate with, and provide any requested information to, the Bureau.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide written comments.



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February 10, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 1101
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 1101, requires LRB to update the economic and environmental costs component of its 2002 study on invasive species.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties 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. Most recently, the coffee berry borer was found on Oahu demonstrating issues with interisland product movement.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

This measure will help determine the current state of Hawaii's invasive species problem and its economic and environmental impact to Hawaii.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2015 8:30 am, Room 325

In Support of HB 1101 Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1101, which requires the LRB to update the economic and environmental costs component of its 2002 study on invasive species, and makes an appropriation.

Invasive species negatively affect the environment, the economy, and our quality of life. They threaten human health and native wildlife. They harm and they kill. We need to spend more money preventing invasive species from taking over our islands. There has never been enough money to do so, and we see the results of that "penny-wise, but pound-foolish" practice of underfunding invasive species control. We can pay now or pay much more later when invasive species spread.

We urge the legislature to appropriate a total of at least \$50 million annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species. HB 1101 will result in focusing more attention and, hopefully, securing more funding and staff to control invasive species.

Here is a photograph of invasive ants swarming a sooty tern chick on Kure. Please kokua!

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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