

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2270
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2270. This bill will restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) into a new entity called the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture. The Department strongly supports this Administration measure.

The HISC has been successful in enhancing the collaboration among the key state agencies addressing invasive species. It has also strengthened the collaboration of these agencies with counties and non-government entities in invasive species response, control, and outreach. The HISC is composed of six voting members representing state agencies and invited legislative representatives. This has allowed for participation from the public sector but excludes a private sector voice. This bill will allow for inclusion of representatives from the agricultural, nursery, conservation and native Hawaiian communities as voting members.

This bill will create the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority as an attached agency and will allow for the hiring of staff within the Authority to carry out the mandates of this statute. The HISC is administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources



(DLNR) and the administrative work for HISC is conducted by DLNR staff as additional duties to their other DLNR functions. Creation of the Authority will allow for dedicated staff to carry out the purposes of this bill so that their work can focus on Hawaii Invasive Species Authority mandates. The mandates of the Authority encompasses work involving multiple agencies and the private sector , and dedicated staff capacity will ensure effective fulfillment of these broad duties.

The department suggests that Section 1, §__-3(a)(6) be changed to: “Identify and record all invasive species present in the State and promulgate a list of invasive species by rule pursuant to chapter 91”. The current language allows for public input into the additions and deletions to the list at §__-9 but does not address public input into the creation of the initial list. Given that this bill authorizes the entry onto private property for invasive species control and eradication, it seems that the public is entitled in the first instance to notice of which pests and species are invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before The
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 2270 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of HB 2270 which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs; establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects.

The University of Hawai'i is a member of the interagency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and will remain a member under the restructuring proposed in HB 2270. We support this restructuring and attachment to the Department of Agriculture, and believe that it will strengthen efforts to prevent and control invasive pests, plants, and plant diseases in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the effort to testify in support of HB 2270.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 18, 2016
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2270
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

House Bill 2270 proposes to restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (HISA), an agency attached administratively to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Administration measure.**

The Department has acted as the administrative host of the interagency HISC since its creation in 2003 and serves as co-chair along with the HDOA. Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), requires the HISC to perform a broad spectrum of policy and coordination duties associated with invasive species. The HISC also manages an annual grants program to support innovative interagency projects that fill gaps between agency mandates. Chapter 194, HRS, establishes the HISC as a board only and does not provide staff or funding for the operation of the HISC. As such, the Department has provided existing staff resources to effectuate the direction of the HISC. Chapter 194, HRS, also establishes the board as being comprised of ex-officio members only: the chairpersons or directors (or their designees) of six state departments that deal with various aspects of the invasive species problem.

This measure would add three non-ex-officio seats to the voting board, to be appointed by the Governor, to represent conservation, agricultural, and cultural perspectives in HISA decisions. This measure would also authorize the HISA to hire staff necessary to effectuate the direction of the board, and provides an appropriation for this purpose. Rather than being administratively hosted within an existing agency, the HISA would function as a semi-autonomous entity administratively attached to an existing agency.

With regard to attachment to HDOA, the Department notes that HDOA has broad mandates regarding invasive species and biosecurity and would be an appropriate agency to which the HISA could be attached. As proposed, both the Department and HDOA would continue to act as co-chairs on the board of directors.

This measure also appropriates funds for an interagency grants program, similar to that currently operated by the HISC, and creates a special fund to allow for better administration of funds and the ability to receive funds other than legislative appropriations. The amount of funding requested for this appropriation matches the need identified by invasive species practitioners for interagency projects in FY17. Pre-proposals describing potential uses of appropriated funds were developed by researchers and project leads across various agencies, and can be found in detail on the HISC website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy17/>.

In preparation of an attached agency concept for invasive species coordination, HISC staff conducted a stakeholder survey to gather input on desired components of an enhanced coordinating entity. Stakeholder input was broadly supportive of the HISA concept as proposed in this measure, with the suggested amendment that the descriptions of the non-ex-officio members in sections -3 (20) (b) (4) (A) and -3 (20) (b) (4) (B) be broadened to describe individuals or organizational representatives representing the categories of conservation and agriculture. This amendment would allow for a larger pool of potential applicants to sit on the board of directors.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 18, 2016
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

H.B. 2270
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

House Committee on Agriculture

The Department of Transportation **strongly supports** this Administration bill which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, an agency attached administratively to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of Les Kuloloio, Chair

Before the House Committee on
Agriculture

Thursday, February 18, 2016
9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2270
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

House Bill 2270 restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, and control, enforcement, and outreach programs. It establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects. **Aha Moku SUPPORTS this measure.**

The Aha Moku encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands, which in turn is comprised of 47 moku and 607 ahupua'a, each one of which is individual and unique with its own natural resources. The focus of the Aha Moku System, as stated by this Legislature is to assist the State in the protection and sustainability of its distinctive natural and cultural resources by bringing forward Native Hawaiian generational and traditional resource methodology that together with scientific expertise may further protect our natural assets.

Today, it is often difficult to protect these resources because of the influx of invasive species which, because they are not native to Hawaii, often causes irreparable harm to our endemic and indigenous flora and fauna. This in turn does great harm to our cultural resources. We believe this measure is greatly needed. On every island, Hawaiian communities are struggling to deal with the rapid demise of our sacred ohia trees; dengue fever, and the rapidly increasing invasive limu in our coastal waters. All of this directly impacts our native Hawaiian resource practices. Aha Moku is attached to DLNR and through this collaboration; some of our ahupua'a communities have been able to get help against certain types of invasive species – for example, the rat eradication on Lehua Island which is part of Ni'ihau.

We support the addition of three members to be appointed by the governor who will have expertise in the agricultural or nursery industry, and who will have expertise in conservation and native Hawaiian cultural practices. It's important for this person to understand that each island is different and unique when it comes to natural resources and cultural practices. The differences come about because of the differences in geography and climate. That indicates whether or not an invasive species has started, and/or if it can thrive. Native practitioners who have practiced conservation in their areas for decades can be a first line

of defense for an invasive species authority as they can let the authority know when changes occur in their environment before it decimates the resource.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we ask that this committee pass this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH KAWAOKA D.Env.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

9:00 AM, Thursday, February 18, 2016

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

HOUSE BILL 2270 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2270 would restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (HISA), an agency attached administratively to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). **The HISC supports this Administration measure.**

The HISC was created in 2003 for the purpose of policy-level coordination and direction among state agencies. Chapter 194, HRS, establishes HISC as a voting board, and places the HISC within the Department of Land and Natural Resources for administrative purposes only. The HISC was established as a board only, with no statutory provisions for funding or staff. As such, DLNR has provided existing staff resources to effectuate the direction of the HISC. Chapter 194, HRS, establishes the board as being comprised of ex-officio members only: the chairpersons or directors (or their designees) of six state departments that deal with various aspects of the invasive species problem.

This measure would add three non-ex-officio seats to the voting board, to be appointed by the Governor, to represent conservation, agricultural, and cultural perspectives in HISA decisions. This measure would also authorize the HISA to hire staff necessary to effectuate the direction of the board, and provides an appropriation for this purpose. Rather than being administratively hosted within an existing agency, the HISA would function as a semi-autonomous entity administratively attached to an existing agency.

This measure also appropriates funds for an interagency grants program, similar to that currently operated by the HISC, and creates a special fund to allow for better administration of funds and the ability to receive funds other than legislative appropriations. The amount of funding requested for this appropriation matches the need identified by invasive species practitioners for interagency projects in FY17. Pre-

proposals describing potential uses of appropriated funds were developed by researchers and project leads across various agencies, and can be found in detail on the HISC website: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy17/>.

In preparation of an attached agency concept for invasive species coordination, HISC staff conducted a stakeholder survey to gather input on desired components of an enhanced coordinating entity. Stakeholder input was broadly supportive of the HISA concept as proposed in this measure, with the suggested amendment that the descriptions of the non-ex-officio members in sections -3 (20) (b) (4) (A) and -3 (20) (b) (4) (B) be broadened to describe individuals or organizational representatives representing the categories of conservation and agriculture. This amendment would allow for a larger pool of potential applicants to sit on the board of directors.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2270 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 18, 2016, 9:00AM, Room 312

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 depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2270 to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture.

The Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) has released its update to the 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*. The new report, *Can't See the Forest for the (Albizia) Trees: An Invasive Species Update*, can be found at: <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/lrb/2015/invasive.pdf>. One of the LRB's recommendations in this new report is that the Legislature consider amending the structure of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to provide clearer authority to direct interagency coordination and provide resources and support for priority actions necessary in the fight against invasive species. The HISC has had many successes, including fostering much greater collaboration amongst government agencies and other partners and—with thanks to the Legislature—providing critical funding for responses to pests like little fire ants, albizia, miconia, coqui frogs and others. However, we agree that raising the status of the HISC to become the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, including an increased base budget for consistent staffing and programs, would be an important step forward in further addressing Hawai'i's invasive species challenges.

We also note that the LRB's report repeatedly states that a major gap in the fight against invasive species has been insufficient funding for invasive species work on the ground and for the operations and staffing of the HISC. Amongst the LRB's recommendations are a statewide biosecurity plan as well as stable—even dedicated—funding to address invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. We agree and are glad that the Department of Agriculture recently issued a request for proposals for assistance preparing the biosecurity plan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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 Agriculture

Hearing: Thursday, February 18, 2016 9 am
Conference Room 312

In Support of HB 2270 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committees.

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2270, which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs; establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects.

Strengthening invasive species programs and policies is one of the most important investments we can make in protecting the environment, human health, culture, and economy.

With all due respect, the State is not doing enough to protect public trust resources from invasive species. We urge you to appropriate a total of at least \$50,000,000 annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study you requested entitled "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species."

Please support HB 2700, and ask your colleagues to stop nickel and diming invasive species programs. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
REP CLIFT TSUJI, CHAIR
REP RICHARD ONISHI, VICE CHAIR**

DATE: Thursday, February 18, 2016
TIME: 9:00 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 312

HB 2270 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

Restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. Establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects.

Chair Tsuji, Vice Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 140+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports HB 2270, as this measure should assist in enhancing the existing invasive species mitigation efforts the State is currently performing.

By creating this authority through the Department of Agriculture (DOA), the efforts of specific invasive species will allow for inclusion for mitigation.

The cattle industry is currently being affected by many invasive species including fireweed, a noxious weed that is toxic to livestock that can cause illness and even death to cattle in severe cases.

Thanks to the efforts of the DOA, in conjunction with CTAHR Cooperative Extension Service working with our industry, they have been able to slow down the spread of this through use of the secusio moth. This moth is a natural predator of plant and has been released in several areas throughout the state. Without these efforts, the weed would have certainly spread to become an even bigger threat than it currently is.

Deer populations have also become an invasive species for our industry. Ranchers are constantly having to balance their pasture quality and the rainfall they receive for the use of their cattle. Having the added pressure of deer present on their pastures creates even more challenges.



By aligning this authority under the DOA, the agricultural community, as well as the environmental/conservation communities will be better served. For this reason, we urge this committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
February 18, 2016
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2270

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 2270, Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration.**

With full disclosure, I have been acting as Chair pro tempore of the HISC Public Outreach Working Group since August 2015, but this testimony is on behalf of CGAPS. With the help of the Legislature, Governor, and many, many dedicated people, the HISC has accomplished an astounding amount of work. From the start, the HISC has supported invasive species pilot projects, research, control operations, and public outreach, resulting in benefits that are difficult to quantify. They include the thousands of miconia trees that have been removed from Kaua'i, Oahu, and Maui—without HISC funding, those trees would have matured and EACH tree could have produced several million additional seeds each year. Another benefit was the formation of the Hawai'i Ant Lab. Prior to this, we had no method or pesticide that we could use to control Little Fire Ants in trees or on cliffs, and therefore, no hope of protecting high-value natural areas or public health. And HISC funding developed several other pest control treatments such as the hot water shower for agricultural commodities shipped from the Big Island. But coqui are sneaky, so when coqui slipped through, HISC funding to CGAPS and the Invasive Species Committees ensured that the public knew what they were hearing, and called to report it. HISC funding is also being used to help Big Island communities become more storm-ready by training Albizia Assassins to control albizia trees that imperil roadways, homes, power lines, and hospitals.

As good as the HISC is, we cannot say that we are winning. We see the attached agency concept as an opportunity to keep what was working with the HISC, but also to expand on these strengths and continue to try to craft a system that puts biosecurity as one of the top priorities in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your past support, and for your consideration of HB 2270.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



Orchid Growers Of Hawaii

P.O. Box 4153 Hilo Hawaii 96720

Email : info@ogoh.org

Website : www.ogoh.org

February 16, 2016

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

Committee on Agriculture
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

Thursday February 18, 2016
9:00 am
Conference Room 312

HB 2270 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH) a statewide association of more than 60 commercial cut flower and potted plant Orchid Growers.

We are in **Opposition** to **HB2270**. We question giving HISC the ability and authority to come onto our nurseries' properties, where they will at our expense take care of invasive species. This bill makes no mention of the care that will be taken in regards to our plants, production material, privacy, personal property and livelihood. We question the need to put this power in the hands of HISC.

We ask that you **OPPOSE** HB2270 and support local agriculture.

Sincerely,

Elton Mow
President,
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)

Elton Mow
OGOH President



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 18, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2270
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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 2270 which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. It also establishes the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects.

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 varroa mite, to name a few.

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.

HFB appreciates the intent of this measure and the many other bills that seek to address invasive species. However, we respectfully request that the Legislature also fund the DOA's Biosecurity Program which is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2016
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2270 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) Strongly OPPOSES House Bill 2270

HISC is not achieving its mandates as prescribed by law because HISC has weakened the invasive species system it was mandated to strengthen. This bill further weakens the system by creating a bureaucratic nightmare that provides no checks and balances to a system that has been overrun by special interest. The bill basically moves HRS Chapter 194 into a new section, and creates various boards for oversight of the Invasive Species Authority, basically duplicating the Board of Agriculture and their process. The new oversight lacks any decision-making by scientific panels or information, while the existing Board of Agriculture has technical and scientific panels to provide a basis for decision-making. The bill undermines the current process in place for funding and emergency rules, but without scientific evidence and providing unregulated mitigation to an invasive species threat. What is really needed is more resources directly to the mandated agencies, i.e. DOH, Vector Control; DOA Plant Pest Control; and DOA Plant Quarantine.

In addition, the authors of the proposed legislation admits HISC is failing. On page 3, "Despite these successes, mitigation of invasive species threats and impacts often remains fragmented between agencies and is insufficiently enabled by a lack of support



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

for interagency data collection and management, public pest reporting, interagency response coordination, and statewide public outreach. Further, the need for financial support for interagency projects supported by the council's grants program has exceeded the amount of funding appropriated."

One of HISC major objectives was to COORDINATE between Agriculture and the Environment, but now they are only targeting agriculture. In the past years, they have supported draconian bills which would have destroyed agriculture. This is NOT coordination, to reiterate, this bill has the potential to destroy crops at the farmer's expense, and basically killing the farmer's livelihood. This bill will hurt agriculture and any hope for sustainability. As we have recently lost HC&S and Hamakua farms, who's next?

During the last several years, HISC has attacked agriculture by introducing draconian bills that would have caused an embargo on agriculture commodities moving between islands. Agricultural production areas are also impacted by invasive species and we have had to put pest management programs in place in order to protect our operations, but HISC will not control the invasive species on the state's lands bordering agricultural areas causing our lands to be continually reinfested, nor will they control pests that border our airports and harbor.

HISC was supposed to strengthen the capacity of the agencies that are mandated to prevent, control, and eradicate invasive species. Instead, Department of Health Vector Control, Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest Control and Plant Quarantine, and Department of Land and Natural Resources have lost capacity.

In addition, providing police power to HISC (Sections ___-6 and ___-7) to enter any place to destroy any invasive species that is declared an emergency, without any regard to the person's livelihood, personal property, privacy and other constitutional rights is wrong. HISC has no regulatory or enforcement power, one would think this action would be considered unconstitutional, especially if the decision for the emergency rule is not scientifically based. As you track previous legislation supported by HISC, you will find their methods are draconian and therefore, will HISC or its participants, and / or the state be liable for the loss of crops, personal property, or emotional distress caused by such an action.

HISC has a poor track record on funding and accountability. The rationale on how they have used the funds have been questionable. Although HISC's main target has been on the interisland movement of invasive species from the island of Hawaii, HISC will not address coqui on the island of Hawaii, but they spent a million on Maui for coqui in Maliko Gulch and failed.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

HISC has become a vehicle to provide money to UH. HISC awards the majority (70% to 90%) of the funds to UH, of which the core is going to the Invasive Species Committees. However, the Invasive Species Committees lack the training and the years of experience as they are funded through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii. RCUH is supposed to be research oriented, so why is this practice tolerated?

As far as accountability, transparency is needed. The Invasive Species Committees do not reveal how much they earn, how many are employed, how much time is actually spent on the ground controlling the pests. They control almost all of the outreach funds. If this measure intends to provide permanent funding for them, shouldn't there be measures of effectiveness and accountability?

But the most disturbing, is that as the Invasive Species Committees grew, the mandated programs within the Agencies have shrunk to a shell of what they were. If Vector Control had not be cut so severely, the Dengue Fever situation on the island of Hawaii would not be a problem that it is today. Now we have more mosquito diseases on the horizon and we are at risk. The Plant Quarantine Branch is not looking for mosquitos because they are simply not looking much at all. They have been ordered to work more on control programs to alleviate the weakened resources at Plant Pest Control.

This measure will place Biosecurity under HISC control. HISC has not shown that it will work with agriculture and certainly has no understanding of biosecurity. Biosecurity should be based on a balance or cooperation between agriculture, natural environment, and stakeholders. It should NOT be in control of some authoritarian body that can't balance the various consequences and impacts, and justifies their action as to forward their righteous ideologies. Although they may be righteous it does not make them right, or above the law.

HISC wants data from the agencies, but there are existing legal controls on the data because the agency collects the data based on the understanding that the information will be protected from release. **Proprietary information is confidential and if the agency intends to share, then the information provider should not trust the agency and provide any information to them.** The leaking or release of confidential business information has liability and legal issues for the State, the department, and the person releasing the information.

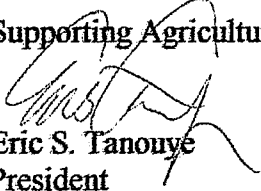
I (we) strongly request the committee to defer this bill.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for the opportunity to express our **strong opposition** to **HB2270**. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2016
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
South Beretania Street

RE: **HB2270** RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

My name is Sean Spellicy and am the current President of the Big Island Association of Nurserymen.

We are **OPPOSED** to HB2270. This bill will give HISC the authoritative action to come on to our nurseries' properties and at our expense, take out invasive species without a care for our products, plants, production, personal property and livelihood. This infringes on our rights and will create a feeling of stress to our members.

We ask that you **OPPOSE** HB2270 and support local agriculture.

Sincerely,

Sean Spellicy
President
Big Island Association of Nurserymen.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2016 11:34 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: hawaiifishingfanatic@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2270 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM*

HB2270

Submitted on: 2/15/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Don Aweau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2016 4:10 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: tom.ranker@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2270 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2270

Submitted on: 2/16/2016

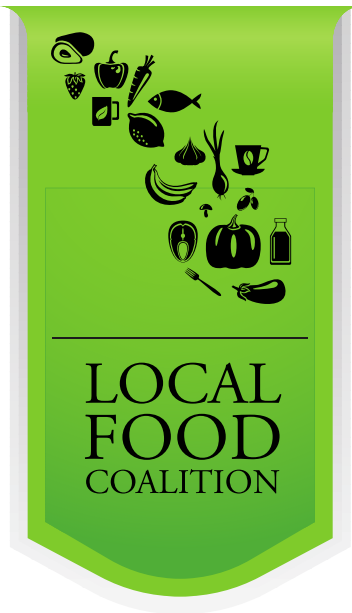
Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom Ranker	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The control of invasive species is the most pressing environmental problem in the State of Hawai'i. Please pass this important measure. Thank you.

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 18, 2016 – 9:00 AM - Room 312

**RE: HB 2270 - Relating to Invasive Species Program
Administration - In Support**

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports HB 2270, which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

Invasive species threaten agricultural production. In addition, they threaten the natural environment, the health of Hawaii's residents and the State's economy. The State needs enhanced coordination of invasive species programs. We support HB 2270 as it will provide the leadership, staffing and funding to help mitigate current and future threats and impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture &
Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau
Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union
United

Hawai'i Food Industry
Association

Hawai'i Food
Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden
Network

Ulupono Initiative

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2016 8:24 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2270 on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM

HB2270

Submitted on: 2/17/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 18, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Tropical Flowers & Foliage Association	Oppose	No

Comments: Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE Rep.Clift Tsuji, Chair Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair THURSDAY FEBRUARY 18, 2016 9:00 A.M. Conference Room 312 State Capitol South Beretania Street RE: HB2270 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION We are OPPOSED to HB2270. My name is John Gordines and am the current President of the Hawaii Tropical Flower & Foliage Association (HTFFA) in Kauai. We would like to see a return to form, such as we had with the previous Plant Administrator Lyle Wong and Plant Quarantine Manager Carol Okada, where we worked together on programs like breeding, import replacement, production support and marketing support. We do not see support in the bill for programs that will help us as production agriculture and instead we see this as a bill that will give funding that will be used exclusively for environmental problems and not those of agriculture. We ask you to consider bills that will help agriculture and not those that focus solely on part of the problem of Bio-Security. It's for this reason that we ask you to OPPOSE HB2270 and support local agriculture. Sincerely, John Gordines John Gordines President Hawaii Tropical Flower & Foliage Association (HTFFA) - Kauai

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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Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Thursday, February 18, 2016 — 9:00 a.m. — Room 312

Ulupono Initiative Supports HB 2270, Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

Dear Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

Ulupono supports HB 2270, which places the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority under the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and provides funding, because it aligns with our goal of creating more locally produced food.

Invasive species pose an additional financial hardship for local farmers as they lower harvest yields and damage crops. Due to their exponential growth, mitigating invasive species threats early can save the state money and staff time over the long run. Therefore, we feel it is critical to grant the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority the resources and additional freedom to execute its mission.

As Hawai'i's local food issues become more complex and challenging, organizations need additional resources and support to address and overcome them. We appreciate this committee's efforts to look at policies that support local food production.

We believe that by collaborating, we can help produce more local food and support an economically robust homegrown agriculture industry, which strengthens our community with fresh, healthy food. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta
General Partner

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.

Steering Committee

Deanna Spooner
June Matsumoto
Matt Lynch
Mark Fox
Mike Hamnett
Piia Aarma
Pono Shim
Scott Enright
Scott Seu
Ulalia Woodside
William J. Aila Jr.

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth In Support of HB2270 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration House Committee on Agriculture 18 February 2016, 9:00am, Room 312

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB2270 to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority (HISA) for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. HB2270 establishes the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates funding for the Authority's operations and critical invasive species projects.

Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threaten the health of Hawai'i's economy, ecosystems, agricultural production and people. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant, damage from Albizia trees during Tropical Storm Iselle on Hawai'i Island and Rapid 'Ohia Death are a couple examples of the severe consequences that invasive pest species can have on us all. State leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated and cost-effective response to current and future threats.

While the HISC has been a very successful model, restructuring as an attached authority to the Department of Agriculture with a raised base budget for staffing and programs, would be an important step to elevate this issue. The Department of Agriculture's broad mandates regarding invasive species and biosecurity make it an appropriate agency for this important statewide priority.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR 69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs launched in 2014 that outlines six ambitious, yet achievable sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was internationally recognized by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, and positions Hawai'i as a model of local implementation of the recently adopted UN Sustainable Development Goals. With Hawai'i hosting the upcoming 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016, the state will have the opportunity further showcase leadership on sustainable development and conservation.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth supports HB2270 to help advance strategic action and leadership on biosecurity, a statewide issue with global relevance, at the World Conservation Congress and beyond.