



Water has no substitute.....Conserve it

Testimony of
Kirk Saiki, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer
Before the House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2015
11:00 A.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

February 25, 2015

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke
House District 25
Chair, House Committee on Finance

RE: HB 437 HD1, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE

The County of Kaua'i, Department of Water (DOW), respectfully submits this testimony supporting House Bill 437 HD1 which proposes to provide funding for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation programs.

The DOW is a member of the Kaua'i Watershed Alliance and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of the entire island's supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource. The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions feel free to call me at (808) 245-5408 or by e-mail at kساiki@kauaiwater.org.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Kirk Saiki".

Kirk Saiki P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

CC: Honorable Bernard P. Carvalho, Mayor, County of Kauai
Sherman Shiraishi, Chairperson, Kaua'i Board of Water Supply
Ernest Lau, Manager and Chief Engineer, Honolulu Board of Water Supply
Dave Taylor, Director, Maui Department of Water Supply
Quirino Antonio Jr., Manager and Chief Engineer, County of Hawai'i, Department of Water Supply

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 1:58 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tshigemoto@abprop.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB437 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM
Attachments: FW HB437 Supporting Testimony.msg

HB437

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tom H. Shigemoto	Kauai Watershed Alliance	Support	No

Comments:

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Hanalei Watershed Hui

February 25, 2015

Testimony in support

HB437

Finance

Hearing: 11:00 am February 26, 2015 Rm. 308

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE ALOHA+ CHALLENGE.
Appropriates funds for the natural resource goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and committee members,

The Hanalei Watershed Hui has worked to better understand and steward the Hanalei Bay watershed since 1999. We are keenly aware of the importance of a healthy watershed to our culture, environment and economy. A watershed “sheds” water to our agricultural and coastal areas and provides a “shed” for the storage of this water for future needs.

Our native forests are key to the health of our coastal resources. In Hanalei we have experienced reduced rainfall, increased temperatures and many other challenges to the management of these resources. You are all aware of the recent bleaching and disease outbreak of the reefs on Kauai and elsewhere. These conditions did not originate in the ocean alone. Many of the impacts threatening our reefs begin on land. Control of invasive species provides vital support for the reduction of erosion of our beaches, mitigates mudding of our shorelines and bays, and helps to prevent our coral reefs from being smothered under mud and destroyed.

We urge your passage of this legislation as it addresses many of the impacts we are experiencing.

As some of our communities, Hanalei included, are planning for the next disaster and longer range resilience, we need the support of funding as is proposed here to make this work matter and our future possible.

Me ka pono,

Makaala Kaaumoana
Executive Director

E malama kumu wai ~ Protect the source
5299C Kuhio Hwy, P. O. Box 1285, Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96714
Telephone/Facsimile (808) 826-1985 E-mail: hanaleiriver@hawaiian.net
www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org
The Hanalei Watershed Hui is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 437 HD1 Making Appropriations for the Natural
Resource Goals of the Aloha+ Challenge
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

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.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 437 HD1 to provide funding support for forest management and invasive species programs.

Healthy Hawaiian forests that are not overrun by invasive species act like a sponge, collecting rain and moisture, slowly delivering fresh water into streams and aquifers, absorbing greenhouse gases, and reducing runoff and siltation into near shore waters. Hawai'i is already exhibiting all the telltale signs of climate change. UH's 2011 Rainfall Atlas catalogues a century of declining rainfall that is worse in recent decades. September 2014 was the second-hottest in Hawai'i since the 1940s. Three hurricanes took aim at Hawai'i last summer and Iselle, though downgraded to a tropical storm, hit Hawai'i island hard. Fallen albizia trees left Puna a quagmire of damaged houses, blocked roads and downed power lines. At the same time, native 'ōhi'a and koa forests in the area were virtually undamaged. These same native forests are also showing that they are better at capturing rain water and recharging aquifers than invasive species. Clearly, protecting and enhancing the health and function of Hawai'i's forests from the threats of invasive species, severe weather and fire is one of the most important and effective things we can do mitigate some of these impacts and ensure a stable environment.

Beyond Hawai'i's forests, invasive insects, diseases, snakes, weeds and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species find an easy environment in which to thrive here. A strong and consistent response is needed to stop vectors for malaria, dengue and other diseases; prevent pests that poison, bite, and sting; and protect local agriculture from insects and pathogens that cause major crop losses. The multi-agency 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.

With dependable base funding, these programs take advantage of many millions of dollars of non-state funds and work by non-state personnel to help ensure the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' natural environment, economy, and quality of life.

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23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 * Phone: (808) 933-3340

To: House Committee FIN
RE: Support for HB437
Hearing: Friday 2/27/2015

Aloha,

I would like to begin by thanking the legislators for the funds that was allocated to the HISC last year. In fiscal year 2014, just \$750,000 was provided from the general fund to the HISCs for invasive species control. Last year, however, to make up for previous cuts in funding, that amount increased to just shy of \$6 million. Although it is still far from the \$50 million estimated by the 2002 legislative study as necessary to fully address invasive species issues in Hawaii, that allocation has had critical impacts for our state and for our island. We are asking that the state maintain that level of funding by passing this bill, so that we can continue the ambitious and successful programs that we were able to implement this past year.

The increase in general fund allocation to the HISC resulted in a 57% direct increase in BIISC's annual budget. Some highlights of the benefits to our program include:

Building capacity. We were able to add more staff, moving from only 8 individuals responsible for the entire Big Island to more than 20, including paid internship positions that provide job training and experience in natural resource management for young people in our community.

Leveraging of outside funding. With the additional funding from the state, we were able to **double the amount of federal funds** brought in to combat invasive pests. BIISC was also able to obtain grant money to expand existing programs once staffing was in place.

Significantly increased productivity in field operations. In 2014 we saw our productivity in on-the-ground identification, control, and eradication of invasive pests **increase by 367%**. This includes the effective eradication of two highly invasive introduced plant species and the control of several others.

Rapid response to Axis Deer. With additional funding, we were able form a rapid response team that surveyed hundreds of acres of land for illegally introduced axis deer and mobilized 40 full-scale responses to reported deer sightings. This resulted in the elimination of 4 deer, and no confirmed deer sightings on the Big Island in over a year.

Increased ability to prevent the spread of pests into new areas. With our additional trained staff, we were able to respond to requests for assistance in detection, control, and removal of invasive species from an array of entities, including the Kohala Watershed Partnership, the Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance, Three Mountain Alliance, the Hawaii National Guard, the County of Hawaii, Kamehameha Schools, Thirty Meter Telescope and others.

Increased community empowerment. BIISC held more than a dozen community workshops and trained over a hundred people on the safe control and removal of albizia trees, which destroyed homes, cars, and left hundreds without power for weeks after Tropical Storm Iselle. BIISC also began an aggressive outreach program to raise the level of awareness and community response to invasive pests, and to empower citizens with guidance on managing invasions in their own communities.

Like the management of personal health, which requires daily interventions in the way of a good diet and exercise, management of natural resources is an ongoing endeavor that is most effective when small measures are performed regularly. Maintaining a reliable level of funding for biosecurity from year to year means that ISCs can create strong and ambitious plans that focus on prevention and early detection. As in health care, preventative measures in invasive species control are significantly cheaper than reactive measures. An investment in healthy foods or a good pair of running shoes is far less than the cost of a hospital stay, surgery, or medications; similarly, an investment in invasive species programs will go far in ensuring that we avoid a "next albizia" that threatens our environment, safety, and economic security.

Funding for watershed protection is estimated to have a 50:1 benefit:cost ratio, meaning that every dollar allocated to natural resource protection provides benefits for the communities of Hawai'i far exceeding the expenditure. The dollars allocated today are not "spent"; rather they are *invested* in a healthful future for our state.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact me.
Springer Kaye, Manager

Date: February 26, 2015

March of Dimes Foundation

To: Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Hawaii Chapter
1580 Makaloa Street, Suite 1200
Honolulu, HI 96814
Telephone (808) 973-2155
Inter-island 1-800-272-5240
Fax (808) 973-2160

From: Lin Joseph
Director of Program Services
March of Dimes Hawaii Chapter

marchofdimes.com/hawaii

Re: In support of
HB467 HD1
Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2015
Conference Room 308, State Capitol

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Members of the Committees:

I am writing to express support for HB467 HD1: *Relating to Critical Congenital Heart Defects Newborn Screening*.

The March of Dimes is the leader in advocacy for newborn screening of all infants in the United States. Our mission is to *improve the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality*. As part of that mission, we support screening for conditions and disorders for which there is a documented medical benefit to the affected infant from early detection and treatment; there is a reliable screening test for the disorder; and early detection can be made from newborn blood spots or other specific means. In 2009, March of Dimes presented the state of Hawaii with the March of Dimes National Award for Excellence in Newborn Screening for being a leader in screening newborn infants for all 29 disorders recommended at that time by the American College of Medical Genetics.

In 2011, the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services added critical congenital heart disease (CCHD) to the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel. CCHD is a subgroup of congenital heart defects which are problems with the heart's structure and/or function that are present at birth. "Critical" indicates that the heart defect causes severe, life threatening symptoms that require intervention, such as medical treatment or surgery, within the first hours, days or months of life. Unlike screening for metabolic disorders which utilizes a few drops of blood from a newborn's heel, CCHD, cannot be detected through blood spots and is sometimes difficult to detect by physical exam and observation. Currently, CCHD can be detected through pulse oximetry to measure the percent of oxygen saturation of hemoglobin in the arterial blood using a sensor attached to the infant's finger or foot. This screening provides that, should a newborn screen positive for CCHD, diagnostic tests can be administered before the infant's symptoms are evident and allow for early interventions to improve outcomes.

HB467 HD1 will establish newborn screening to detect CCHD to ensure that newborns in Hawaii are screened for congenital heart conditions that, if undetected, can be severe and life-threatening. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB467 HD1.

 march of dimes®



**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth in Support of HB437 HD1
Making Appropriations for the Natural Resource Management Goals of the *Aloha+ Challenge***

House Committee on Finance
27 February 2015, 11:00am, Room 308

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports HB437 HD1, which makes appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, add planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

HB437 will help advance action on the natural resource management goals of *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'ōia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 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 unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

HGG strongly supports invasive species management and watershed protection with annual funding to strengthen natural resource management, food security, and climate resilience:

- ◆ \$6M annually in general funds to maintain interagency project funding by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to manage priority invasive species threats on all the islands. Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threatens the health of Hawai'i's people, economy and ecosystems. They also reduce our ability to withstand impacts from climate change. State leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated and cost-effective response to current and future threats. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant is just one example of the severe consequences that invasive pest species can have on us all.
- ◆ \$7.5M annually to protect forests that recharge freshwater supplies, reduce climate change impacts such as flooding and other disasters, and provide other benefits to the health of Hawai'i's people and economy. Watershed protection and restoration significantly increases water availability by ensuring that our forests function to effectively absorb rain, deliver it into streams and aquifers, and decrease erosion and siltation, which also benefits our reefs and fisheries. This is especially urgent in the face of climate change and projected long-term decline in rainfall.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **HB437 HD1**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Audrey Newman".

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy



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 27, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 437 HD 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE
ALOHA + CHALLENGE

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports HB 437 HD 1, which makes appropriations for the natural resource goals of the Aloha + Challenge.

HFB farmer and rancher members across the islands have been significantly impacted by a changing climate and its resultant reduced rainfall and subsequent availability of water resources. Moreover, HFB farmers and ranchers are continuing to battle the many destructive invasive species that plague our State. Although not specifically mentioned in the bill, we hope that the necessary resources will be allocated to assist Hawaii's farmers and ranchers by ensuring that these menacing invaders are kept out of our fields, pastures, and nurseries, preferably before they even get to the State.

We have noticed that there are other bills that would also allocate significant funding for invasive species control. Given finite resources, HFB trusts that due consideration of each of these proposals will be afforded and that an effort will be made to prioritize the needs and equitably allocate the available budgetary resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator, Cheyenne Perry

RE: Supporting H.B. 437 Making and Appropriation for the Natural Resource Goals of the Aloha+ Challenge

I am writing to urge the legislature to make protection of our forests and watersheds a top priority in our state. As we move into an era of increasing drought and continued impacts from climate change, it is more critical than ever that we ensure that these resources will exist and be plentiful for the generations to come.

2014 marked the publication of the National Climate Assessment by the U.S. Global Change Research Program, a report compiled with input from over 300 experts from 13 government agencies, including NOAA, NASA, and the National Academy of Science. It made this statement about our state: “In Hawai‘i, average precipitation, average stream discharge, and stream baseflow have been trending downward for nearly a century, especially in recent decades...increased temperatures coupled with decreased rainfall and increased drought will reduce the amount of freshwater available for drinking and crop irrigation.”

Coupled with expected population growth, the stress on our freshwater supplies makes clear the need for strategic management and a strong commitment to protection of our watersheds. Effective management includes the aggressive control of invasive animals and plants, which have been shown in study after study to negatively impact our watersheds’ ability to collect, absorb, filter, and store our fresh water.

Watershed funding is estimated to have a 50:1 benefit:cost ratio, meaning that every dollar allocated to watershed funding provides benefits for the communities of Hawai‘i far exceeding the expenditure.

We know that:

1. In east Hawaii alone, 85 million gallons of groundwater recharge a day are lost daily, due to disruption of the ecosystem by non-native plants;
2. Only 10% of the area identified as “priority” watersheds in the state are currently protected;
3. Soil runoff from degraded forests degrades our coastlines, smothering coral reefs and destroying habitat for economically important fish species and tarnishing the iconic coastal scenery upon which our tourism industry depends;
4. Ensuring a food-secure future for Hawai’i requires the availability of plentiful freshwater for our farmers and communities.

It is no coincidence that the Hawaiian word for “wealth” is waiwai: the ancestral and current stewards of these islands recognize the value of fresh water. For over a century land managers have recognized the close relationship between healthy upland forests and water supplies. We ask for your support in continuing the tradition of protecting Hawaii’s most precious natural resource.

Mahalo,



Cheyenne Hiapo Perry
Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance Coordinator
160 Baker Avenue, Hilo, HI 96720
mobile: (808) 937-5170
office: (808) 933-0622



**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 Finance
Hearing: Friday, February 27, 2015 11 am, Room 308
In Support of HB 437 HD 1 Making Appropriations for the
Natural Resource Goals of the Aloha+ Challenge

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 437 HD 1, which appropriates funds for the natural resource goals of the Aloha+ Challenge.

We urge the legislature to appropriate at least \$11 million dollars annually for watershed protection alone. This is a relatively small amount of funding for something as essential as water. The value of one watershed alone far exceeds the amount we are asking you to appropriate. We should also raise the price of water to include watershed management.

We also urge the legislature 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 "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species."

Millions of dollars are spent by large corporations fighting over water, yet the state protects only 5% of the essential watersheds we need to live on these islands. Perhaps it is time to get a little more serious about water security. We need to protect a lot more than 5 percent of our watersheds to do so.

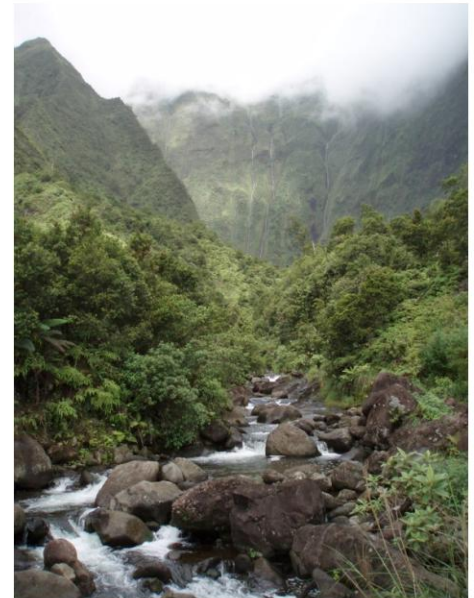
These appropriations are among the most important investments we can make for our people, native wildlife, and economy. Watersheds are essential to supporting life on these islands, native wildlife and habitats, traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, recreational activities, and the economy.

Please kokua. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

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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P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Hannah Kihalani Springer | Vice-President: Julie Leialoha | Treasurer: Bianca Isaki | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Directors: Rick Barboza | Ryan Belcher | Maka'ala Ka'aumoana | Koalani Kaulukukui
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





Pono Project, LLC
Paia, Hawaii
www.ponoproject.org
Phone: 808-268-6680
sarah@ponoproject.org

Testimony of Pono Project LLC
Supporting S.B. 544 Relating to Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00 AM, Room 211

The Pono Project LLC enthusiastically **supports** S.B. 544 to provide crucial funding for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

The Watershed Partnerships on Maui (three of them in total) and their partnerships with the Maui Invasive Species Committee has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Maui as a part of a diverse group of public and private entities that own land within the mountainous watershed. The Pono Project LLC fully supports and understands the importance of their work in protecting and preserving the forests that capture fresh water—our most precious resource.

In particular, the Pono Project LLC has contributed small grant funding to Watershed Partnerships statewide as our investment in our local watershed health continues. We appreciate that these organizations create and maintain stable local jobs, with a livable wage and benefits. Also that their work encourages the development of new technology – including the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS), aerial and satellite photography, helicopter operations, computer programming and software development, and the development of invasive species control mechanisms – such as the Herbicide Ballistic Technology (HBT) efforts. The Watershed Partnerships and the Invasive Species committees bring innovation to our local economy and not only create local jobs, but also improve education statewide by conducting outreach and education to local school groups and incorporating watershed management strategy techniques, even at the UH level. We are proud to support the Watershed Partnerships and the Invasive Species Committees with funding from our company but we need State and County level buy-in as well. It is crucial, and provides much-needed match for larger federal budgets to trickle down.

This isn't just about the fact that these watersheds provide the source of our water – our life blood for everything else we do here on the island. It's also about *kuleana*, responsibility and literally being *PONO*. *Doing what is right* by the organizations who are willing to put their blood,

sweat and tears into protecting the only source of water that we have. It only takes a quick google search to see how other places in the West are fighting large battles over water to appreciate what we have here. It will be critical to maintain these important resources if we want to continue to grow our population, economy and tourism sectors. Everything depends on the mountain. Please consider this funding to maintain your prior investments in these areas.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah McLane Bryan
Owner
Pono Project, LLC
808-268-6680
sarah@ponoproject.org



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

February 24th, 2015

Supporting 437 Relating to Watershed Protection

Aloha Legislators,

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, HI. 96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Strongly Supports HB437** with all voting members in favor and one abstention. Please also see testimony submitted to your committee in support of this bill by Department of Land and Natural Resources Interim Chairperson, Carty S. Chang, on February 10, 2015. This bill requests general funds for watersheds, invasive species management, forest fire and emergency response and outdoor and forest recreation through the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources. Here in West Maui the need for this statewide support is very evident.

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land & Natural
Resources
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kahoma Land Holdings,
LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land & Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co. LLC
The Nature Conservancy

In terms of watershed management, our partnership needs additional fencing to exclude feral ungulates from 24,000 acres, 50% of our watershed, to prevent further degradation. We are also battling the advance of our worst invasive weeds. This includes strawberry guava which is known to consume 53% more water in times of drought as compared to native forest and capable of displacing entire forested watersheds. Your support of these programs is vital and can be leveraged with county and federal sources at least 2 to 1.

Beyond our efforts, the Maui Invasive Species Committee is keeping West Maui free of new threats including fountain grass, pampas grass, coqui frogs, veiled chameleons and little fire ants. These threats require vigilant and sustained efforts. Without further support, elimination of these species may not be possible.

The need for forest fire suppression and emergency response in West Maui is obvious. Thousands of acres have burned in the last 10 years. Fortunately these fires were eventually kept in check and contained by the hard fought efforts of DLNR and Maui County's wildfire crews. However, further funds can help suppression be more effective in limiting irreparable harm to native watersheds and communities. With arid environments predicted to become drier, we greatly need this support.

Associate Partners

U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Service
Tri-Isle RC&D

In terms of outdoor and forest recreation, we support managed efforts to expose our residents and visitors to some of the most inspirational places in the world. Our watersheds should also be understood, interpreted, and respected for providing a sustainable water supply to our islands. West Maui's Na Ala Hele trails provide this kind of access opportunity to hundreds of people a day and needs support to encourage proper enjoyment and understanding by all.

Without adequate support for forest protection we cannot depend on the ecosystem services like water which nourishes all of Hawaii's economic interests. This bill provides a balanced approach to many needed programs and will help to restore funding to levels near those prior to the recession. Without support, past gains in controlling the worst threats to watersheds cannot be sustained or improved upon. We hope that you can join us in lending your support for watershed protection and a more sustainable Hawaii.



7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • www.kauaiisc.org

Supporting H.B. 437
Making and Appropriation for the Natural Resource Goals of the Aloha+
Challenge
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2015, 11:00AM, Room 308

The Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) fully supports H.B. 437 providing funding to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, DLNR Watershed programs, forest fire and emergency response and outdoor recreation.

The economy of Hawaii is largely based on tourism and to a lesser extent agriculture. Both of these industries are impacted by invasive species, fire, water budgets and lack of supporting infrastructure. It is the role of government to provide general support for the greatest benefit to the public. Strategic investments in watershed health, invasive species management, tourist infrastructure and agricultural support create strong returns on tax dollars spent and provide multiple job opportunities for all skill levels.

The past year's funding allowed our organization to reach full staffing for the first time in twelve years. KISC employs 11 staff and partners with multiple agencies, NGO's and volunteers. KISC has eradicated the coqui frog from Kauai and has an opportunity to eradicate the little fire ant in cooperation with HDOA. The few mongoose that have been confirmed on Kauai were captured and we continue to monitor for these animals through trap-lines, game cameras and outreach. We are partnered with DOD as we attempt to eradicate Long Thorn Kiawe from our west side beaches protecting tourists from three-inch spines that are sharp and strong enough to puncture radial tires. Miconia is declining and will likely be eradicated within the next decade. The list of damaging species is long and increasing, though we are winning some of these battles through consistent action and support.

Funding from state sources can leverage access to federal and private funding sources to keep up these efforts. It is imperative to maintain existing funding levels to avoid loss of ground and expensive failures. Imagine the Big Island today if the first coqui frog infestation had been hit as hard then as the Kauai area was in 2012? Last summer there were more than twice as many project requests for this funding then was available showcasing that the need is greater than the resources. We all realize that the resources will always be limited to combat these issues, but with consistent funding comes dedicated staff that uses experience and wisdom to invent solutions that can get the job done more efficiently. All the people protecting Hawaii's watersheds, economy and biodiversity through these programs are dedicated to serving the public's interest and should be supported and encouraged by the legislature.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee

MISSION STATEMENT: KISC is a voluntary partnership of government, private and non-profit organizations, and concerned individuals working to eliminate or control the most threatening invasive plant and animal species in order to preserve Kauai's native bio-diversity and minimize adverse ecological, economic and social impacts.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 2:41 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wichman@ntbg.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB437 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM

HB437

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chipper Wichman	National Tropical Botanical Garden	Support	No

Comments: The National Tropical Botanical Garden is strongly in support of this bill which will fund critical work to maintain our forests and control invasive species. Aloha, Chipper Wichman, President and CEO

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Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting HB 437 H.D. 1 Making Appropriations for the
Natural Resource Goals of the Aloha+ Challenge
House Committee on Finance
Friday February 27, 2015 11:00 AM Room 308

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) supports HB HD1 437 that would provide funding to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, DLNR Watershed programs, forest fire and emergency response and outdoor recreation. Invasive species damage Hawai'i's agriculture and food security and the native forests that ensure Hawai'i's water supply. The funding from H.B. 437 will be critical to ensure that that incipient invasive species can be quickly controlled and that established invasive species can be successfully managed.

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. We have benefitted from HISC funds for many years and we thank the Legislature for their continued support in the fight against invasive species. The state money OISC receives is highly leveraged with county and federal funds.

OISC has stopped the spread of miconia on O'ahu; since 2008 mature trees have declined to five or less each year. However in the past five years, new species such as Cape ivy and devil weed that are known to disrupt ecosystem function have been discovered. Little fire ant continues to spread and coconut rhinoceros beetle has arrived on O'ahu. Adequately funding the fight against invasive species so that state agencies and organizations like OISC can rapidly respond to new incursions will keep Hawai'i's unique biota intact for future generations and protect the natural resources that support Hawai'i's economy.

OISC is a partner organization of the Ko'olau and Wai'anae Watershed Partnerships and we recognize that healthy forests provide the ecosystem services on which Hawai'i citizens depend. OISC recognizes that the ability to respond to natural disasters such as forest fires are also critical to forest health. We also support the funding for recreation in this bill as we believe it is important for Hawai'i's citizens to be able to connect with their forests.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee



Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.

Testimony of *Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve*
Supporting H.B.437 Relating to Natural Resources
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 27, 2015, 11:00 AM, Room 308

Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve (Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc.) supports H.B.437 to provide funding for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements.

Our company is a member of the West Maui Mountains watershed partnership and we recognize the necessity of natural resource stewardship. We understand that the source of our pure water is a system of healthy forested watersheds which capture rain and cloud moisture and deliver it efficiently to aquifers and surface sources for subsequent consumption in our daily lives and for the benefit of our island economy.

As the largest privately owned nature preserve in the state of Hawai'i and one of the first members of the Natural Area Partnership Program, Pu'u Kukui Watershed recognizes the value of collaborative efforts and resources needed to maintain vital watershed areas to provide recharge and drinking water for current and future generations. Pu'u Kukui Watershed has been proactive in protecting this fragile native habitat from ungulates by continuing to construct miles of eight foot axis deer fence in steep terrain over the last few years and maintaining over six thousand meters of existing fence. However, there are several sections of the preserve that remain open and vulnerable. Additional watershed funding would allow us to complete the contiguous fence on the entire ma kai portion of the preserve thus protecting the core 8,600 acres of Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. This area has been identified by the state as one of the core areas to protect because of it being one of the wettest spots on earth averaging nearly 400 inches of rain per year. Without current and future funding towards watershed protection years of hard work and valuable resources could be undone by allowing ungulates and weeds to destroy the pristine bogs and upper watershed areas. Current staffing and operations would be negatively affected immediately without your support of H.B.437.

This bill proposes to provide additional funding for the protection of our native forests, which are the source of nearly all the islands' supply of fresh water and an essential cultural and recreational resource . The watershed protection and invasive species programs supported with state funds and leveraged several times over with matching funds from county, federal and private sources help to ensure healthy, managed natural resources that are critical for isolated island chains such as Hawai'i.

Mahalo no kou kokua

Pomaika'i Kaniaupio-Crozier, Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve Manager



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
February 27, 2015
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 437 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 437 HD1**, *Making Appropriations for the Natural Resource Goals of the Aloha + Challenge*, which appropriates funds to support watershed management, invasive species work, and the protection of forested areas.

The influx of invasive species and spread of existing pests, ever-increasing pressures on watershed and recreational forest lands must be met with increasing budgets to care for these important resources. In addition, changing climate patterns further underscore the importance of DLNR's responsibilities to protect natural resources, and enhance the resilience of our forests.

We respectfully ask your support HB 437 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



The Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability

He Nohona 'Ae oia

Recognizing that the perpetuation of the health and well-being of Hawai'i's people is rooted in the health and well-being of our environment and economy;

Understanding that living on islands requires balancing and integrating human needs and aspirations with the ability of our natural systems to be replenished, and that our quality of life is physically and spiritually linked to the land and sea, which connect us to our ancestors, to our Pacific 'ohana, and to all the generations that will follow;

Noting that we are dependent on imports for food and fuel – costing Hawai'i more than \$8 billion each year – and our unique island ecosystems and lifestyle are particularly susceptible to invasive species, natural disasters, sea-level rise, drought, and other impacts of a changing climate;

Affirming that we will increase our stewardship efforts, enhance them through the synergies to be found with each other, and accept the responsibility to *Mālama Hawai'i* – care for Hawai'i;

Further affirming that our journey to sustainability will be guided by respect for the culture, diversity, character, beauty and history of our communities;

Acknowledging our state's long, proven track record of supporting sustainability in law and action across economic, social and environmental sectors;

Appreciating the many government, private sector, and community leaders across our islands who are taking action to build a more secure, sustainable, and resilient Hawai'i; and

Representing that the strength of our commitment is demonstrated in this partnership, both unprecedented and essential to Hawai'i's future; by working together, we can and will reach our shared destination – an economy, environment, and community worthy of our future generations.

Declaration of Commitment

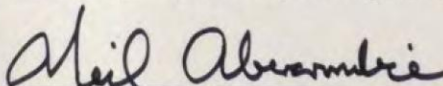
July 7, 2014

We, the elected Chief Executives of the Hawaiian Islands, **jointly commit to build a more secure, sustainable and resilient future for Hawai'i and pledge to achieve the six targets of the Aloha+ Challenge by 2030, which include:**

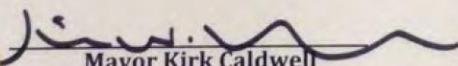
1. **Clean Energy:** 70 percent clean energy – 40 percent from renewables and 30 percent from efficiency.
2. **Local Food:** At least double local food production – 20 to 30 percent of food consumed is grown locally.
3. **Natural Resource Management:** Reverse the trend of natural resource loss mauka to makai by increasing freshwater security, watershed protection, community-based marine management, invasive species control and native species restoration.
4. **Waste Reduction:** Reduce the solid waste stream prior to disposal by 70 percent through source reduction, recycling, bioconversion, and landfill diversion methods.
5. **Smart Sustainable Communities:** Increase livability and resilience in the built environment through planning and implementation at state and county levels.
6. **Green Workforce & Education:** Increase local green jobs and education to implement these targets.

In order to implement the *Aloha+ Challenge*, we further agree to:

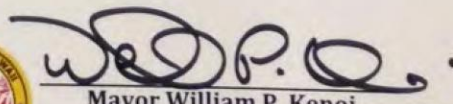
- Establish and expand our partnerships between government agencies, non-profit organizations, the private sector and local communities to promote coordinated and integrated action;
- Share experiences, tools and techniques among Hawai'i's officials, practitioners and community leaders;
- Increase long-term financing mechanisms for conservation and sustainability programs essential to reaching our 2030 targets; and
- Review and report progress to achieve the *Aloha+ Challenge* annually to our respective legislative bodies.


Governor Neil Abercrombie
State of Hawai'i

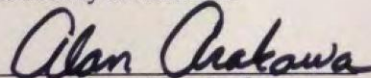



Mayor Kirk Caldwell
City & County of Honolulu

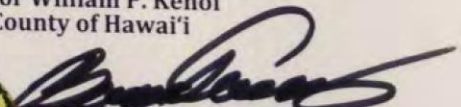



Mayor William P. Kenoi
County of Hawai'i

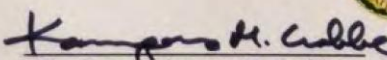



Mayor Alan Arakawa
County of Maui




Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho
County of Kaua'i




Dr. Kamama'o pono M. Crabbe
Ka Pouhana Chief Executive Officer
Office of Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability - He Nohona 'Ae 'oia

As an island state, Hawai'i shares challenges faced by all islands and is a microcosm of the planet. Launched by the Governor, Hawai'i's four mayors, and Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae 'oia* is a joint leadership commitment to sustainability for the State of Hawai'i.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* sets six statewide sustainability targets to be achieved by 2030 – in clean energy transformation, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, smart growth, climate resilience, green job creation and education. These targets provide a shared framework to set priorities, take action and track progress.

Inspired by the Global Island Partnership, this commitment to statewide targets and an integrated approach is strongly supported by the Hawai'i State Legislature, Hawai'i Green Growth, and a growing network of public and private leaders, organizations and communities.

The *Aloha+ Challenge* is Hawai'i's commitment of collaborative action to sustain our oceans, islands and peoples. The State of Hawai'i and U.S. Department of State will announce the *Aloha+ Challenge* internationally at the United Nations' Third International Conference on Small Island Developing States (UNSIDS) in Samoa in September 2014, and the World Wide Voyage will connect Hawai'i with other inspiring initiatives around the world. <http://www.hokulea.com/>

Hawai'i is committed to working and learning with other islands to demonstrate innovative and collaborative solutions that build a more secure, sustainable, and resilient future.

Hawai'i Green Growth

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) is a partnership of more than 50 leaders in Hawai'i from government, non-governmental organizations, business and academia that developed and support the *Aloha+ Challenge*. HGG serves as a catalyst for multi-sector partnerships to advance the state's emerging blue-green economy. Under HGG, leaders develop shared priorities for action, support innovative funding mechanisms and legislation, develop shared indicators to track progress, and engage with international partners to help achieve the *Aloha+ Challenge* targets.

For more information:

Jacqueline Kozak Thiel
State Sustainability Coordinator
State of Hawai'i, U.S.
jacqueline.m.kozak-thiel@hawaii.gov

Audrey Newman
Senior Advisor
Hawai'i Green Growth
audnewman@gmail.com
www.hawaiiingreengrowth.org

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:31 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nathanmdube@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB437 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM*

HB437

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Dube	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 10:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lydibernal@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB437 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM*

HB437

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

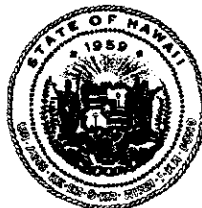
Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lydi Morgan Bernal	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Friday, February 27, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 437, HOUSE DRAFT 1
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE
ALOHA+ CHALLENGE

House Bill 437 House Draft 1 proposes to authorize appropriations for watershed management; invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning; equipment for fire, natural disaster, and emergency response; and forest and outdoor recreation improvements. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.**

Part II: Watershed Management

Protecting forested watersheds is one of the Department's top priorities, and an ongoing effort. With climate change accelerating a long-term decline in rainfall, forest protection has never been more urgent.

- Native forests absorb mist and fog, increasing water supply up to 50% more than rainfall.
- The availability and affordability of fresh water is so dependent on Hawaii's forests that economists estimate investments in forest protection have a 50:1 benefit to cost ratio.
- The net present value of the Koolau mountain forests for water supplies is \$8.5 billion.
- Currently only 5% of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's lands are protected to the highest extent. We plan to increase this percentage to 20% over the next 10 years.

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

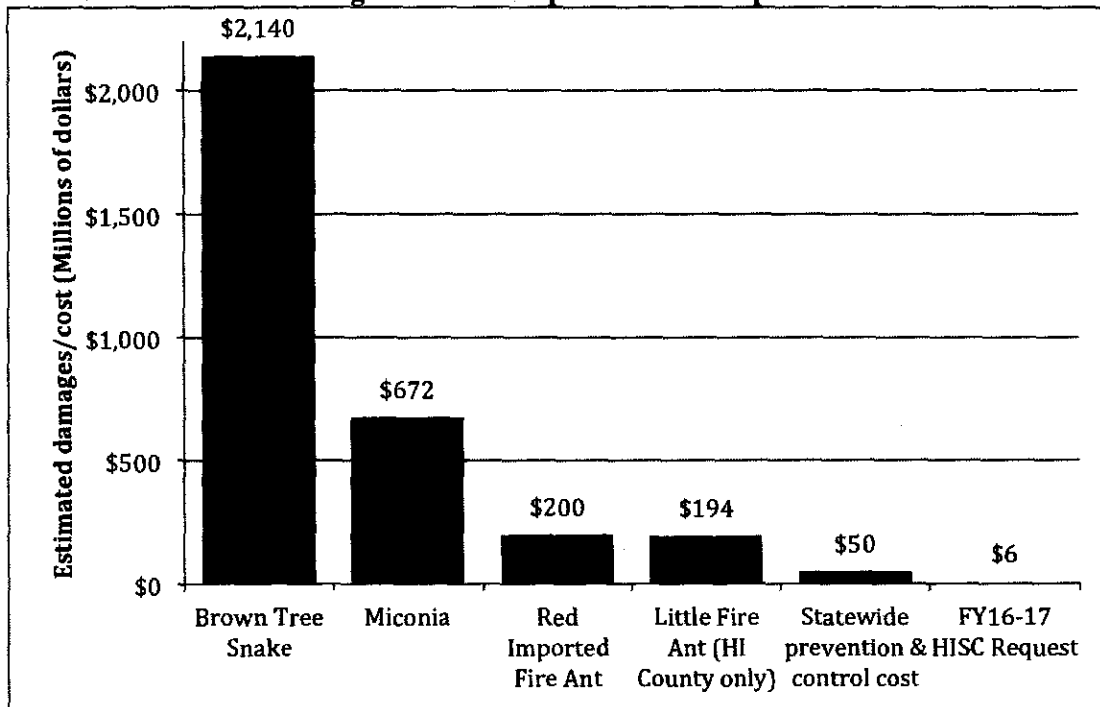
DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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

LATE TESTIMONY

Estimated economic damages from a sample of invasive species



Part IV: Fire, Natural Disaster, and Emergency Response Equipment

The Department is responsible for preventing and fighting wildfires, and responds to natural disasters from hurricanes to lava flows that threaten life and property.

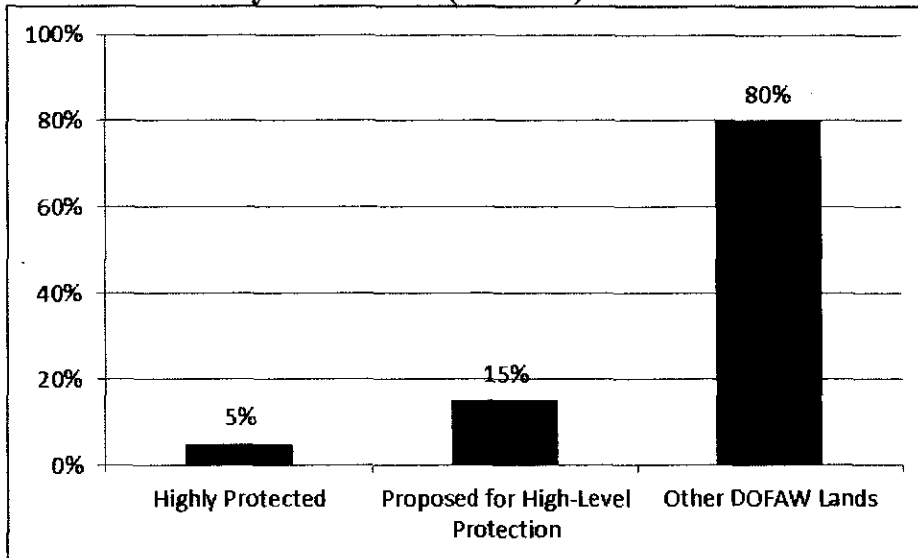
- Hawaii is on par with the western states for percentage of land area burnt.
- The average annual number of fires that burn over 100 acres has increased five-fold in the past 40 years.
- Forestry crews helped clear fallen albizia trees from roadways after Tropical Storm Iselle.
- Funding will be used for brush trucks, weather stations, and personal protective gear.

Part V: Forest and Outdoor Recreation Improvements

The Department's trails and access (Na Ala Hele) program connects residents and visitors to Hawaii's natural areas and iconic scenery, yet is severely underfunded.

- Na Ala Hele maintains 124 trails and roads, totaling 855 miles statewide.
- There is a dramatic increase in visitation to recreational sites. For example, nearly 100,000 hikers per year visit Oahu's Manoa Falls Trail and Maunawili Falls Trail.
- This funding is critical for improving the safety of trails and roads statewide, which degrade with overuse.

Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) Lands

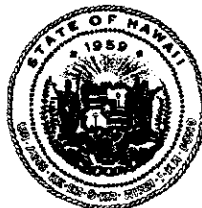


Part III: Invasive Species Control

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which funds critical invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research projects that fill gaps between existing agency programs or develop new tools and methodologies.

- In Fiscal Year 2015, the legislature provided \$5,750,000 to the HISC, supporting 42 projects including the UH Invasive Species Committees, a little fire ant canine detection pilot program, interagency response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation, and biocontrol research.
- FY16 funding is needed to continue these projects and support new research efforts.
- The Legislative Reference Bureau estimates that \$50,000,000/yr is needed to address invasive species in Hawaii.

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 House Committee on
FINANCE

Friday, February 27, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 437, HOUSE DRAFT 1
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE
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- Currently only 5% of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife's lands are protected to the highest extent. We plan to increase this percentage to 20% over the next 10 years.

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

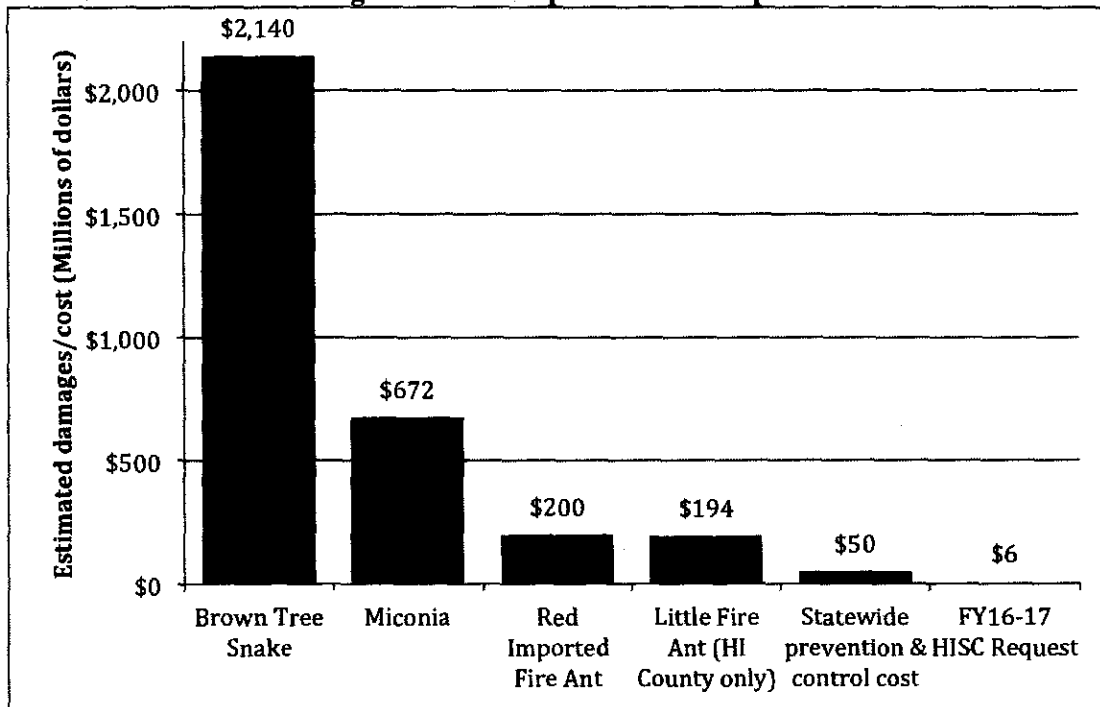
DANIEL S. QUINN
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LAND
STATE PARKS

LATE TESTIMONY

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- This funding is critical for improving the safety of trails and roads statewide, which degrade with overuse.

species are extremely high. Just one species, the brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*), is estimated to cause as much as \$2,140,000,000 annually in medical costs, lost tourism, and damage to electrical infrastructure (Shwiff et al. 2010). The brown tree snake, which has decimated Guam's native bird species, has been intercepted several times in Hawaii but has failed to establish a population here. The invasive plant *Miconia calvescens* is estimated to cost Hawaii \$672,000,000 annually in lost groundwater recharge and damage to native bird habitats (Burnett 2007). Investments by the HISC have helped limit the spread of miconia, and ongoing research into potential biocontrol agents represent our best chance at effectively controlling this species.

The HISC notes that the Executive Budget includes \$4,000,000 in general funds for the HISC as part of the budgetary request for the DLNR as its administrative host. The HISC supports the Executive Budget request, but recognizes and appreciates any additional appropriation described in this measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.

The HISC appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

CARTY CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

VIRGINIA PRESSLER, MD
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, PhD
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
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 27, 2015
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Room 308**



**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 437, HD1
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOALS OF THE
ALOHA+ CHALLENGE**

House Bill 437, HD1 would support the goals of the *Aloha+ Challenge* by appropriating from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii funds for watershed management, for invasive species prevention and control, for emergency response and preparedness, and for forest and outdoor recreation improvement. **The interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) supports this measure.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 69, S.D. 1 (2014) identified six sustainability targets as part of the *Aloha+ Challenge*, including goals for clean energy production, local food production, natural resource management, waste reduction, community resilience, and the development of a green workforce. The natural resource management goals include watershed management, protection of natural resource habitats, and invasive species prevention and control.

In Fiscal Year 2015, the legislature provided \$5,750,000 to the HISC to develop an interagency spending plan. After receiving \$10,400,000 in requests, the HISC approved funding towards 42 projects including county-level detection and control programs, a little fire ant canine detection pilot program, interagency response to the coconut rhinoceros beetle infestation, and biocontrol research for invasive plants including albizia, miconia, and Himalayan ginger. As an island State operating as both a global transportation hub and tourist destination, invasive species are a continuous problem for Hawaii. Projects supported by the HISC apply for funds annually, but typically require multiple years in order to reach their project objectives.

The HISC also notes that the investment by the legislature in invasive species prevention and control has been economically beneficial to the State. A 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau study, "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species," estimates the prevention and control cost for Hawaii at \$50,000,000. Comparatively, the economic impacts from invasive

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2015 5:39 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: alisakimura@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB437 on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM



HB437

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for FIN on Feb 27, 2015 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alisa Kimura	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB437 to provide general funds to DLNR watersheds, HISC invasive species, forest fire and emerg. resp., outdoor and forest recreation programs.

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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