

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

March 10, 2016
11:00 A.M.
ROOM 312

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 42
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 42. This measure would request that the Department convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of the resolution but has strong reservations.

The Department is concerned that the task force is being asked to address a complicated issue within a very short time frame and with no additional resources. One of the tasks being set forth by the resolution is to determine population sizes, ranges, and distributions of pests and endangered species. A study of this type for just one species can be costly and take much longer than the time allotted. For example, a study on the impacts of little fire ant that was recently released by the University of Hawaii took years to complete. The resolution has a much larger scope as it is not specific to any one species but for invasive and endangered species in general.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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, March 10, 2016
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII**

House Concurrent Resolution 42 requests the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to convene a multiagency task force, including the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and a representative from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, to collect data regarding the impacts of invasive and endangered species on crops in Hawaii. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments and concerns.**

With regard to endangered species, the Department notes that the measure describes both invasive and endangered species as “damaging pests.” While “invasive species” are defined as non-native species with negative impacts on the environment, economy, or human health and may be correctly described as “pests,” endangered species are native species and pre-date human agriculture in Hawaii. Endangered species are protected by state and federal law, and the Department is mandated to conduct active recovery programs of these species in certain areas. The Department would appreciate clarity in this measure in describing invasive and endangered species, as we believe that describing these mutually exclusive groups as “damaging pests” sets a bad precedent and may not be consistent with protections afforded to endangered species under Section 195D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department would also like to note that a mechanism to address private landowner concerns about endangered species already exists through our Habitat Conservation Plan and Safe Harbor Agreement programs pursuant to Sections 195D-21 and 195D-22, HRS.

With regard to invasive species, the Department notes that there is no formal list or designation of “invasive species” at this time, and that the task force would need to determine which species would be included in the analysis. The Department also notes that production of geographic distribution and population trend data described in this measure would require field surveys and research that would likely require more time than afforded by the measure. The Department suggests amending the reporting date to be no later than twenty days prior to the regular session of 2018.



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March 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HCR 42
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII

Room 312
11:00 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HCR 42, which requests HDOA to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii.

Hawaii's agriculture industry is vital to the State's economy. Increased self-sufficiency is a priority in the State but currently, farmers and ranchers suffer from the intense burdens of high overhead production costs and a continued battle against not only invasive species, but also endangered species. In order for farmers and ranchers to be viable and provide the food, fiber and energy that is the cornerstone of self-sufficiency, they must be able to contain their costs of production. All of these outside hurdles make this impossible.

Invasive crop pests and endangered species threaten the viability of farming. Throughout Hawaii, farmers are struggling to address crop loss resulting from invasive pests or endangered species, especially when there is no established or accepted method to control them. For example, the Rose Ringed Parakeet threatens various crops on Kauai, including lychee and rambutan. The Nene Goose has destroyed countless Taro crops on Kauai and has even forced a Kamuela farmer on the island of Hawaii to shut down his farm. Hawaii's farming is clearly being threatened.

Most farmers and ranchers are not trained wildlife biologists, university researchers, or economists who can document the economic and agricultural harms caused by these damaging pests. Farmers and ranchers rely upon the expertise of the Federal, State, and County governments to provide a unified effort on how to address issues such as these.

HFB strongly believes that HCR 42 provides a holistic approach and encourages a solution to this persistent problem that threatens the viability of Hawaii's agriculture. Through HCR 42, the HDOA task force will provide vital documentation of economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences, population assessments, and statewide best management protocols to confront these crop pests which seem to be unrecognized or unnoticed by governmental agencies as threatening our agricultural businesses. If the State truly supports Hawaii's agricultural industry, then measures such as HCR 42 need to be implemented for this economic sector to thrive toward sustainability and food security.

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 10:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR42 on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM

HCR42

Submitted on: 3/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: Another task force???? Another way to waste taxpayer dollars. This is yet another state sponsored welfare program to keep environmentalists in constant employment.

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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LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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March 8, 2016

Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

**Testimony in Support of House Concurrent Resolution (HCR) No. 42
(Requests the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to convene a task force to
document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and
regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and
endangered species in Hawaii.)**

Thursday, March 10, 2016, at 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HCR 42**, and to offer comments.

HCR 42. The intent of this Resolution is to address negative impacts on Hawaii agriculture by requesting the DOA to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in this State. The task force convened, in coordination with other agricultural and scientific research agencies are further requested to conduct population assessments of invasive and endangered species affecting Hawaii's agricultural industries and to develop best management practices to control, eradicate, or relocate invasive and endangered species from Hawaii's agricultural areas.

LURF's Position. One of LURF's missions is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and

cultural resources and public health and safety. LURF members have, for centuries, served as stewards of their respective lands, and voluntarily set aside hundreds of acres as conservation lands, watersheds and critical habitat; and continue to serve as leaders and representatives of public trust organizations such as the Nature Conservancy and the Trust for Public Lands.

LURF members also include associates of various agricultural stakeholder groups, who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii. This resolution supports the need for collaboration amongst different sectors of the community, and the importance for them to work together cooperatively to improve the economic viability of the State's agricultural industry and to promote food security.

LURF concurs with the purpose of this resolution which is to assemble a task force to document and collect data identifying the economic, environmental and regulatory consequences of invasive and endangered species, and to analyze such data with respect to the species' interaction with agricultural practices in order to assist the agricultural industry in dealing with issues that are affecting agricultural productivity and the farming industry. The objective of the measure is to affirmatively prepare and plan to develop balanced, coordinated strategies and efforts, and potentially outline steps toward reducing the effects of damage by invasive and endangered species which are adversely impacting farms, and hindering the ability to consistently produce quality products.

Local farmers and ranchers who rely on the ability to securely work their agricultural lands, consider such mitigation measures and strategies critical to conduct their agricultural operations and to sustain their businesses. These agricultural stakeholders believe measures such as HCR 42 will greatly assist by providing information and mechanisms necessary to implement improvements for the long-term betterment of the State's agricultural industry, and are relying on legislation such as this to help them work toward the expansion of diversified agriculture and promote the agricultural self-sufficiency of the State.

In order to ensure that local agricultural producers may continue to operate in an optimal manner and maintain productivity in balance with invasive species and the perpetuation of endangered species, LURF believes the convening of such a task force, together with the documentation, assessment, and analysis as proposed by this measure is necessary.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HCR 42**, and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present comments regarding this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 08, 2016 5:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR42 on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM

HCR42

Submitted on: 3/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: This kind of data collection would greatly support active decision making.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 5:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR42 on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM*

HCR42

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 4:43 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR42 on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM

HCR42

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Endangered species should not be included in this bill. Invasive species negatively affect environmental integrity and crops (in some cases) but endangered species should not be considered a threat to crops or the environment. Please re-write this bill to remove endangered species. If this is a way to remove HCP (habitat conservation plans then this bill is not transparent and should state that but it would be against federal law to do this.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 07, 2016 4:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR42 on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM*

HCR42

Submitted on: 3/7/2016

Testimony for AGR on Mar 10, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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