



*Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government,*

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*non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.*

## Steering Committee

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## Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

### In Support of SB2799 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

#### House Committee on Agriculture

1 March 2016, 1:30pm, Room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB2799 SD1** 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. SB2799 SD1 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 SB2799 SD1 to help advance strategic action and leadership on biosecurity, a statewide issue with global relevance, at the World Conservation Congress and beyond.



## Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua`i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua`i Ranch LLC, Lihu`e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

*"The Mission of the Kaua`i Watershed Alliance is to PROTECT, PRESERVE and MANAGE our valuable watershed resources for the benefit of our residents, communities and all future generations through the concerted efforts of its members."*

Supporting SB 2799 Relating to INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Tuesday March 1, 2016, 1:30 PM, Room 211

The Kaua`i Watershed Alliance supports SB 2799 as this bill would restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture, for the enhancement of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. This bill would also establish the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority Special Fund and appropriates moneys to that fund to implement the Authority and relevant invasive species projects.

The Kaua`i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua`i since 2003, removing invasive plants and animals threatening our mauka native forests and watersheds. Its members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

The KWA strongly supports our Kauai Invasive Species Committee and the work that they accomplish for the Kauai's communities and natural resources, and grateful for your committee's consideration of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Mahalo.

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**Cc:** [basil@kauaibeach.com](mailto:basil@kauaibeach.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2799 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:45:17 AM

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**SB2799**

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Basil Scott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I OPPOSE SB2799 This legislation creates a new government entity to perform functions already carried out today by DLNR and the Hawaii Invasive Species Committee. This expands the size of government unnecessarily and costs taxpayers unnecessarily. I especially disagree with the provisions listed in section -9 that would suspend the normal procedures of HRS 91. There is no reason why any board (HISC or this new entity) cannot and should not follow the standard methods set forth in section 91. For entry onto private property, this measure would give too many agencies within the government that authority and is a dilution of the rights of every Hawaiian resident under the fourth amendment of the US constitution. I am a resident of Kauai, residing in Wailua Homesteads.

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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