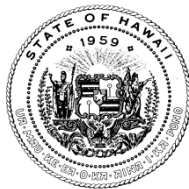


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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 24, 2017
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

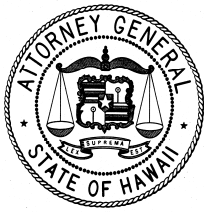
S.B. 776, S.D. 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

Senate Committees on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which expands the authority of the existing Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

The DOT finds its membership on this council useful in providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE, 2017**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 776, S.D. 1, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

DATE: Friday, February 24, 2017

TIME: 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 211

TESTIFIER(S): **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY.**

(For more information contact Haunani Burns,
Deputy Attorney General at 586-1180)

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments about this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council), into a new entity, the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (Authority), to be administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture.

There is a concern regarding the bill's definition of "department." On page 4, lines 1-2, the bill defines "department" as "any entity that is represented by a member of the authority." On page 11, lines 14-20, section -6(a) of the new chapter being added to Hawaii Revised Statutes by section 2 of the bill authorizes any Department to enter onto private property to control or eradicate invasive species. On page 8, lines 20-21 to page 9, lines 1-6, section -3(b)(7) of the new chapter in section 2 of the bill includes three individuals representing particular interests to be appointed by the Governor to be members of the Authority. To clarify this issue, we recommend that the definition of "department" on page 4, lines 1-2, be amended to read as follows:

"Department" means any governmental entity whose representative or designee is a member of the authority.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to comment.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 24, 2017
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 776 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES ADMINISTRATION**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 776 SD1. This bill will provide the vehicle for the restructuring of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (HISA). The restructuring will attach the HISA to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture which will coordinate the implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. HISA will become the vehicle to organize the State's Invasive Species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement and outreach activities. The Department strongly supports this measure.

At the Department of Agriculture, we are keenly aware of the economic impact that invasive pest species has on our farmers. Additionally, new pest species affect the outdoor environment that we live, work, and play in. The establishment of the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority places the efforts of controlling and managing invasive pests under one regulatory authority with dedicated staff and resources. HISA will also have a board comprised of vested stakeholders, including a member from the agricultural industry, natural resource conservation, and the Native Hawaii cultural community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 24, 2017
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 776, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Senate Bill 776, Senate Draft 1 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) with expanded board membership that would allow for participation from non-governmental stakeholders. Amendments in Senate Draft 1 would clarify the ability of the HISA to recover expenses of a control effort from a non-compliant property owner who causes such expenses to be incurred. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this 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 interagency budget to support innovative interagency projects that fill gaps between agency mandates. Chapter 194, HRS, establishes the HISC as a board only, comprised of chairs or directors of state departments, 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.

This measure would add three non-ex-officio seats to the voting board, to be appointed by the Governor, to represent the interests of stakeholders outside of state government including agricultural and horticultural stakeholders, conservation stakeholders, and an individual with expertise in Native Hawaiian cultural practices. 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 budget to support gap-filling projects, similar to that currently operated by the HISC. The amount of funding requested for this appropriation matches the need identified by invasive species practitioners for interagency projects in Fiscal Year 18. 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.

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. Support for a stronger interagency coordinating body is also a key recommendation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (2017-2027), which is part of the Governor's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative. The HISA would be the primary entity responsible for facilitating implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan and would be responsible for tracking progress toward implementation and providing reports to the legislature.

With regard to the appropriation amount in this measure for interagency invasive species project needs, the Department notes that the HISC has solicited pre-proposals for Fiscal Year 2018, totaling roughly \$10,000,000. These pre-proposals are available online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy18/>. These critical projects include the maintenance of the Invasive Species Committees for the early detection of and rapid response to invasive plants and insects, maintaining the work of the Hawaii Ant Lab to control little fire ants statewide, and new research and control efforts for Rapid Ohia Death and mosquitoes. With regard to the appropriation amount in the measure for operational costs of the HISA, the Department notes that this should be sufficient to support the initial establishment of the HISA program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 24, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 776 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 776 SD1, which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the department of agriculture, to coordinate implementation of the Hawai'i interagency biosecurity plan and to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs; and appropriates funds to implement the authority and relevant interagency 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 SB 776 SD1. 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 SB 776 SD1.



February 23, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

SUPPORT FOR SB776 SD1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH
Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:30 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair
Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawaii supports SB 776 SD1 "Related to Invasive Species Program Administration." This bill restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to become the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority. The Authority, housed in the Department of Agriculture, will be given more resources such funding, staff, and board members in order to fulfill the goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. **Passage of this legislation is one of DPH's Legislative Priorities for this 2017 Legislative Session.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Tim Vandever (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

/s/ Margaret Wille (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ Sean Smith (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-chairs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:04 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: peterw@bestfriends.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter J. Wolf	Best Friends Animal Society	Oppose	No

Comments: On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our many supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands, I urge you to amend SB776 so that domestic cats (*Felis catus*) are exempted from the provisions of the bill. In its report on this bill, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment made clear that they do “not intend that this measure be applied to dogs or cats, which are governed under other statutes.” However, we are concerned that this language does not provide the necessary protections against cats being classified as “invasive species,” and thereby subject to lethal control methods as directed by the new Hawaii Invasive Species Authority. We appreciate the need to protect Hawaii’s native plants and animals, but think that SB776 goes too far in its current form, posing a grave risk to outdoor cats. A simple amendment clearly exempting cats from its provisions would make it much easier for us to support this bill. Thank you for your time and attention.

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Neighborhood Cats

the feral cat experts!

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

February 23, 2017

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Re: SB776

Dear Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair San Dela Cruz and Committee Members,

Neighborhood Cats is a nonprofit specializing in the care of free-roaming cats and manages both national and local programs, including here in Hawaii. We wish to express our support for SB776 if one modification is made to the current amended version of the bill (SB776 SD1).

We are concerned that cats could be mistakenly listed as an invasive species subject to jurisdiction of the new Hawaii Invasive Species Authority. In its report, the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment states, "Your Committee does not intend that this measure be applied to dogs or cats, which are governed under other statutes."

We do not believe this statement of intent affords the same level of protection against a mistaken listing as would an explicit exemption for cats in the bill's definition of "invasive species" (sec. -2). It is clear cats are at heightened risk for such an abuse of the new agency's authority in light of the informal listing of "feral cats" as an invasive species by the current Hawaii Invasive Species Council (<http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/species/>) This informal classification is made despite the non-existence of a species known as "feral cats" (there are only "cats").

So while we understand the Committee may be concerned about setting a precedent of excluding specific species in the statutory language, cats are a special case and need an express exemption to prevent possible future harm and litigation.

Thank you for considering our views,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:41 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: shyaura@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Oppose	No

Comments: For Forgotten Felines a Hawaii non profit and all its members oppose this unless wording is changed to reflect cats and dogs are not invasive species

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: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:27 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: cathyg@animalrightshawaii.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please include in the bill that cats and dogs are not considered invasive species.

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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 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 776, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 211
1:30 pm

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau strongly supports a robust Biosecurity Plan, and provides the following comments on SB 776, SD1.

Hawaii agriculture has a long track record of implementing biosecurity measures to protect Hawaii's ecosystem. It was a pioneer in proactive and protective quarantine laws, dating back to 1888, when King Kalakaua signed into law a prohibition on the introduction of coffee trees and shrubs. While addressing natural resources protection (for example, the prohibition of foxes and land crabs), agriculture was a focal point so that diversified crops could be encouraged for commercial production, rather than continue to have Hawaii's people rely on mere subsistence. HFB believes that as we work to improve biosecurity and invasive species management, **biosecurity in relation to agriculture must not be marginalized.**

HFB has long-supported the State's efforts in creating the infrastructure and mechanisms to foster coordination in prevention and control of harmful invasive species. Similar to the goals outlined in this bill, the mission of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HRS 194), created in 2003, is, "...to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful."

HFB also supported the addition and funding of the Biosecurity Chapter (HRS 150A Part VI), updating the Hawaii Quarantine Law, with objectives to (150A-52)

(1) Establish a multi-dimensional system to prevent the entry into the State and interisland movement of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit; and

(2) Respond effectively to eradicate, control, reduce, and suppress incipient pest populations and established pests and seize and dispose of prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit. [L 2008, c 236, pt of §2]

SB 776 envisions further statutory and regulatory changes. We are hopeful that prior to those changes, a review of existing laws and regulations, and funding mechanisms will be conducted to avoid duplication of efforts and expenditures.

Especially during fiscally challenging times, HFB is a firm believer in collaborative efforts to facilitate implementation of programs. To maximize Hawaii's potential for biosecurity success, we respectfully suggest coordination with experts at USDA, Bishop Museum, UH, and HARC, as well as private organizations with similar goals, in lieu of immediately hiring additional staff for the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this critical issue. Hawaii Farm Bureau is a strong proponent of biosecurity; our farmers and ranchers are at the forefront of the battle with damaging and invasive species, while trying to meet Hawaii's goal of increased self-sufficiency and sustainability. The challenges of pervasive pests are serious and they are already threatening the viability of sectors of Hawaii's agriculture industry. We respectfully request that the needs of production agriculture and its role in protecting Hawaii from invasive species be recognized and addressed in any new invasive species and biosecurity program.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
February 24, 2017
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 776 SD1

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 7 SD1, *Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration***. The aim of this measure is to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) as an Authority administratively attached to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), and appropriate funds.

Agencies and non-government organizations have tried for decades to address individual invasive species and impacts, and the underlying issues that continue to place Hawai'i at risk, and there are many successful policies and programs that have been instituted over the years through the efforts of leaders and partnerships. The creation of the Invasive Species Committees, the Watershed Partnerships, the Hawai'i Ant Lab, and the HISC itself are all great examples. The HISC in particular has been an amazing success, so why change it? The answer is because we are still not where we need to be with regard to biosecurity policies, programs, public participation, and funding, and we must continue to advocate for what is necessary to do the job. The Interagency Biosecurity Plan creates a solid framework that highlights the most important policy, infrastructure, and resource needs, and yet it will falter without a structure to drive change. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 76 SD1.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, February 24, 2017 1:30 pm
Room 211

Support for SB 776 SD 1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

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

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 776, which restructures the Hawaii invasive species council as the Hawaii invasive species authority, administratively attached to the department of agriculture, to coordinate implementation of the Hawaii interagency biosecurity plan and to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs; appropriates funds to implement the authority and relevant interagency invasive species projects.

The proposed restructuring will likely result in better coordination between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and more buy-in on the part of the Department of Agriculture.

Give our native Hawaiian species a chance. Please pass SB 776 SD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Invasive ants on wedge-tailed shearwater chick.

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 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 2:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and serve as a model for integrated green growth

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

Board of Directors

In Support of SB776 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

24 February 2017, 1:30 pm, Room 211

Deanna Spooner

Pacific Island Climate
Change Cooperative

June Matsumoto

Pacific Islands Institute

Ka'eo Duarte

Kamehameha Schools

Matt Lynch

University of Hawai'i

Mark Fox

The Nature Conservancy

Mike Hamnett

Hawai'i Energy Policy
Forum

Piia Aarma

Pineapple Tweed Public
Relations & Marketing

Pono Shim

O'ahu
Economic
Development Board

Scott Enright

Department of Agriculture

Scott Seu

Hawaiian Electric
Company

Ulalia Woodside

The Nature Conservancy

William J. Aila Jr.

Department of Hawaiian
Homelands

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

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB776 SD1 to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, providing new board seats for non-governmental stakeholders and providing the ability to hire staff to better coordinate interagency programs that implement the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

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, outbreak of dengue fever on Hawai'i Island and Rapid 'Ohia Death are a couple examples of the severe consequences that invasive species can have. Continued state leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated response to current and future threats.

While the Hawaii Invasive Species Council has been successful, restructuring as an attached authority to the Department of Agriculture would be an important step to elevate this critical issue for increased impact. The Department of Agriculture's broad mandates regarding invasive species and biosecurity make it an appropriate agency for this important statewide priority.

Hawai'i Green Growth partners agreed that biosecurity is an important priority to support implementation on Hawaii's *Aloha+ Challenge 2030* sustainability goals. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a joint leadership commitment launched by the State Legislature (SCR69),

Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners. This statewide framework outlines six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resource management, solid waste, smart sustainable communities, and green education and workforce. The Aloha+ Challenge has been recognized nationally and internationally as model that can be scaled to support the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

With leadership and support from the State Legislature, Hawai'i hosted the first U.S. held IUCN World Conservation Congress with over 10,000 global partners from 190 countries in 2016. **SB776 SD1** is an opportunity to continue important local action on sustainable development and resiliency. As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports **SB776 SD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 776 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 24, 2017, 1:30PM, Room 211

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 S.B. 776 SD1 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 recently released its update to the 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*. The 2015 update, *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. While the HISC has had many successes, 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 and for 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 pleased that the Department of Agriculture recently completed a comprehensive biosecurity plan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Thomas Gottlieb James Haynes III Sean Hehir Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy Matsui
James Polk Jean Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Dustin Sellers Nathan Smith Peter Tomozawa

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:33 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: alohasharing@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharing lawrence	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Feral cats/dogs are not invasive species.....they are an overspill into environments from irresponsible people on the island who dump these innocent animals. I oppose this bill as it does not specify this. TNRM is the only effective humane method of this removal in sensitive areas. Be intelligent and see this.

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: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:55 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: audy@audykimura.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audy Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I respectfully submit my opposition to SB776 UNLESS both dogs and cats are specifically excluded from being classified as "invasive species." Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony. Sincerely and With Aloha, Audy Kimura

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:57 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ej@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ellen jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: oppose unless language is added, within the text, that cats and dogs are not invasive species.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:00 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee,

I am strong support of SB776. The devastating impact of invasive species cannot be overstated, and we must take any and all steps necessary to prevent the ones we have from spreading, and prevent even worse species from entering Hawaii. This bill takes very important steps to combat and prevent invasive species. Since I'm sure you have received a lot of testimony on its merits, I would like to focus on the importance of the financial portion. Unfortunately, combating and preventing invasive species is very, very expensive. However, any amount we spend now, even though it is a lot, will save us much more in the future.

When dealing with invasive species, as a general rule of thumb, each step costs ten times as much if you do not take the previous step. What that means is that if we do not do everything necessary now to prevent a species from entering, it will cost us 10x to prevent it from becoming established once it's here. If we don't take every step necessary to prevent it becoming established in one area, for EACH area it becomes established it will cost 10x as much to prevent it from spreading. Once it has spread, it will cost us 10x as much to control it in each area. That is only considering the direct cost of combating an invasive species, so the economic impacts are added on top of that.

As an example, many years ago I worked in the field of water quality on a lake on the mainland. We spent a lot of money implementing what was then considered to be extreme measures to prevent invasive species from entering the lake, and for preventing those that were already there from spreading further, and eradicating them when possible. Now, years later, other lakes in that area are spending many, many times more to try to control the invasive species that we prevented and eradicated, thanks to the money and efforts that were spent early on. So, any amount of funds that are appropriated now will save us at least 10 times that amount in the near future, and even more in the longer term.

Please pass SB776, and appropriate the funds necessary for its implementation.

Mahalo for your consideration and the opportunity to submit testimony.P

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Deren Ash', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Deren Ash

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:09 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a born and raised Maui resident and small business owner and I strongly support SB776 "Related to Invasive Species Program Administration." This bill restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to become the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority. The Authority will be given more resources such staff, board members, and additional funding in order to fulfill the goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. I am greatly disappointed in Hawaii's historical response to the threat of invasive species. It sickens me that the Big Island's East Side seems terminally doomed to be ridden with Little Fire Ants and Coqui frogs. I visit Hilo monthly for business and am always disturbed by the calls of the coqui frogs and am paranoid that I'm getting bit by LFA or accidentally bringing them home to Maui in my luggage. I wish we could go back in time to intercept the LFA and coqui on their way to the Big Island. As a second best option, once these species were discovered we should have given more resources towards their early eradication. Now it seems like it is too far gone for those East Hawaii Island communities to ever be free of these pests. I think this mentality of defeat on the Big Island needs to change and we should go to war with the LFA, coqui and other invasives by being better organized, funded and focus our efforts on biocontrols. Until biocontrols are properly developed for eradication we must give adequate resources to mitigation and containment. We cannot let the invasive species on the Big Island get a hold on the other islands. It will be cheaper, in the long run, to focus now on the interception and early detection vs the economic toll of losing whole industries to invasive species such as nurseries, farms, and orchards. Also if LFA spread to our beaches it will be detrimental to our tourism industry and locals quality of life. Currently, it seems like the Hawaii Invasive Species Council is spread too thin putting out fires such as new outbreaks of existing invasive species problems. I fear that they do not have the infrastructure to respond to a totally new threat if one arises. Additionally, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council does not have the funding or tools to adequately carry out the plans of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Please do all in your power to help the Agencies succeed in following through with the Biosecurity Plan including creating the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority and significantly upping their budget. We need to do everything in our power to prevent, eradicate and mitigate the harms from invasive species. Much of Hawaii's value is in our unique natural resources.

Please do everything in your power to protect these resources for the sake of our economy and future generations. Please vote in favor of SB776. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:07 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: emmaharberwhite@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emily White	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha. Biosecurity affects us all, especially our economy. Let's learn from New Zealand, our sister island. They are succeeding in this field, and their economy and culture is thriving. These are related. New Zealand shows us we need a better organized and funded approach to truly manage our biosecurity. Please support this science backed bill. Mahalo, Emma White, JD, MA

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:17 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: bestb002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Best	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:54 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: mauciat7@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/23/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michael willinsky	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I would support this bill if dogs and cats are expressly exempted as invasive species. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:44 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: ogyechan@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donni Gye Corrow-Sanchez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:56 PM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: nataliejeanf@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
natalie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 10:01 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM*

SB776

Submitted on: 2/22/2017

Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 24, 2017 8:06 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: birdofparadise@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM

SB776

Submitted on: 2/24/2017
Testimony for WAM on Feb 24, 2017 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Andrea Nandoskar and I am a resident of Waikiki. I oppose this bill unless it states, within the text, that cats and dogs are not invasive species. Mahalo for your consideration.

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