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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
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Written Testimony  
Only

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 776**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date: February 1, 2017      Room Number: 224  
Time: 1:15 P.M.

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

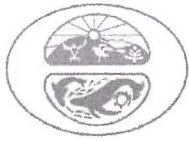
2 **Department Testimony:** The department supports the restructuring of the Hawaii Invasive  
3 Species Council (HISC) currently administered by the Department of Land and Natural  
4 Resources (DLNR) into the proposed Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (Authority) with  
5 administrative support provide by the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

6        The restructuring will expand HISC's role in promoting interagency cooperation and  
7 commitment to the management and eradication of invasive species statewide. The Authority  
8 also intends to expand its membership to include individuals outside the current interagency  
9 representatives (DLNR, DOA, DOH, UH, DBEDT and DOT). The proposed membership would  
10 include individuals representing the interests of natural resource conservation,  
11 agriculture/horticulture and native Hawaiian cultural practices. The inclusion of these  
12 representatives will assist the Authority in developing well-rounded strategies in the  
13 management and eradication of invasive species.

1           The goals and objectives of the Authority dovetails very well with the Hawaii  
2 Interagency Biosecurity Plan (2017-2017) developed by DOA with the collaboration with other  
3 state, county and federal agencies. The department believes the close association between DOA  
4 and the Authority would be beneficial to both entities.

5           The department believes the proposed restructuring will enable the Authority the ability  
6 to more effectively and efficiently manage and eradicate invasive species.

7           Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 Agriculture and Environment  
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:15 pm  
Room 224

**Support** for SB 776 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

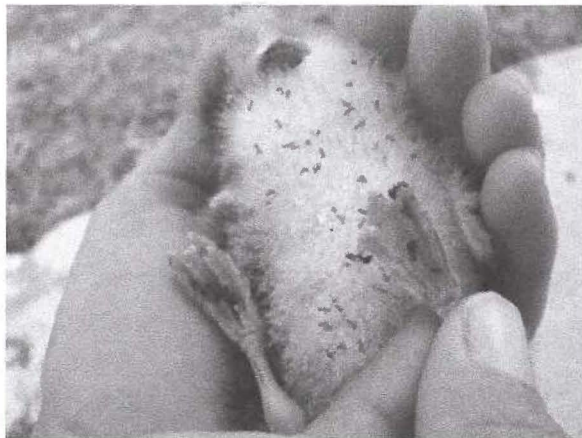
Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 776, which restructures the Hawai'i invasive species council as the Hawai'i invasive species authority, administratively attached to the department of agriculture, to coordinate implementation of the Hawai'i interagency biosecurity plan and to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs, 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. 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](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://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





# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Ninth Legislature, 2017  
State of Hawaii

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 1, 2017  
1:15 PM  
Conference Room 224  
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

### **SB776 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

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

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **OPPOSES SENATE Bill 776**

This measure proposes to elevate HISC to an Authority. HISC was created to increase the capacity to effectively mitigate invasive species. But instead of increasing the capacity of the involved agencies, it became a vehicle to fund the Invasive Species Committees.

**This has done nothing to fix the invasive species problem. This measure, as written, only makes a bad situation worse by:**

Allowing this Authority to hire an Executive Director, officers, agents, and employees without regard to Chapters 76 and 89. This translates to throwing out the general civil service provisions, which is based on the merit principle. The merit principle is the "selection of persons based on their fitness and ability for public employment and the retention of employees based on their demonstrated appropriate conduct and productive performance."

Allowing this Authority to set its own salaries without regard to Chapters 76 and 89, and thus, throwing out "equal pay for equal work as prescribed in those Chapters that is "based on objective criteria and adequate job evaluation."



## Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

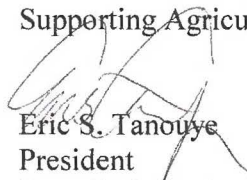
Allowing these unproven staff to enter into private property, having the owner pay for costs incurred, and without any liability on the part of the employee or the department for any of their actions.

We have serious concerns because we feel that Department of Agriculture and HISC are already lacking transparency and failing in mitigating invasive species. Doesn't creating an Authority decrease transparency and if the Department is already not performing adequately on their biosecurity program, why then do you allow them a free hand?

We stand firmly behind the Biosecurity program that the Legislature established and the late Representative Tsuji stalwartly led and protected. We urge you to support Representative Tsuji's bill instead, HB 1325.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye  
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

## AEN Testimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 31, 2017 11:25 PM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** mindyolvera@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM\*

### **SB776**

Submitted on: 1/31/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melinda Buck	Individual	Oppose	No

#### Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## AEN Testimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:20 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** kellimaui@hotmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM

### **SB776**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose SB776. I am a vet tech and cat colony keeper who lives on Maui. Killing feral cats will not solve any problems as cats keep reproducing. The Maui Humane Society has implemented a trap, neuter, release program that has fixed thousands of cats for free in the past 2 years. We have seen a significant reduction in the amount of feral cats due to this program. The cats are fed by caretakers. The birds are not an issue because the cats are not hunting due to being fed. I feel strongly that you do not impose a death sentence to innocent animals when its negligent owners who are at fault.

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## AEN Testimony

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 1, 2017 10:59 AM  
**To:** AEN Testimony  
**Cc:** L888hawaii@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB776 on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM

### **SB776**

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 1, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leilani Ng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Section 15.6 with respect to Entry; private property, violates 5th and 10th amendment rights by "forcing participation" in the States administration of the invasive species projects. This type of power allows the agency to be coercive and use whatever means it deems warranted to gain access to private property for the sole purpose to indiscriminately seize and destroy what they deem "invasive species".

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