

SCR 69

DAVID Y. IGE
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 24, 2017
1:20 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69/ SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26
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 Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 69/ S.R. No. 26. This resolution requests the Department 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. 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 ants by the University of Hawaii took years to complete. This 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 our 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**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, March 24, 2017
1:20 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69/SENATE RESOLUTION 26
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**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 69/Senate Resolution 26 request the Hawaii Department of Agriculture 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 also notes 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, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Because endangered species are also regulated under federal law administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department suggests adding the Service to the list of entities involved in the task force described by this measure.

The Department further notes that production of geographic distribution and population trend data described in this measure would require field surveys and research that would require more resources and time than are afforded by the measure. The resolutions do not identify any funding to complete this work, and stipulates that a report must be submitted prior to the Regular Legislative Session of 2018. The Department suggests consideration of appropriating funding for population assessments and amending the reporting date to be no later than 20 days prior to the Regular Legislative Session of 2019.

Finally, the Department respectfully requests the Chair have the ability to designate a representative of the Department to the task force to ensure appropriate expertise, as follows:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the following persons or their designated representatives to serve as members of the task force:

...

(3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources or his or her designee;

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.