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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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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
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, April 4, 2017
9:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 69, SENATE DRAFT 1/SENATE
RESOLUTION 26, SENATE DRAFT 1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF
LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII

Senate Concurrent Resolution 69, Senate Draft 1/Senate Resolution 26, Senate Draft 1 request the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) identify the impacts of invasive and endangered species on crops in Hawaii. **The 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.

The Department appreciates amendments in Senate Draft 1 that task the agencies with identifying impacts and potential solutions, rather than the collection of geographic distribution and population trend data. Data collection would require field surveys and research that would require more resources and time than are afforded by the measure. A report simply identifying

impacts and potential solutions should be possible to produce prior to the Regular Legislative Session of 2018.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 4, 2017
9:45 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 69 SD1/ SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 26 SD1
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND
AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO IDENTIFY ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND
REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND
ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII.**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.C.R. No. 69 SD1/ S.R. No. 26 SD1. This resolution requests the Department to work with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to identify economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii. The Department supports the intent of the resolution and offers comments.

The Department currently works in collaboration with DLNR to address invasive species throughout the State. These efforts will continue as the State moves to support the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan developed late last year. It is important to note that this resolution has a large scope as it is not specific to any one species but for invasive and endangered species in general. The Department requests specific scope, time, and resources to carry out this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our testimony.





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April 4, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SCR 69/SR 26, SD1
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 224
1:20 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.

HFB strongly supports SCR 69/SR 26, SD1, 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 SCR 69/SR 26, SD1, provides a holistic approach and encourages a solution to this persistent problem that threatens the viability of Hawaii's agriculture. Through SCR 69/SR 26, SD1, 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 SCR 69/SR 26 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.



**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

Hearing: Tuesday, April 4, 2017, 9:45 am
Room 211

Opposition to SCR 69 SD 1 and SR 26 SD 1 Requesting the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources to identify economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawai'i.

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

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes SCR 69 SD 1 and SR 26 SD 1. The impacts to crops by invasive species and by endangered species are very different issues with different scopes, approaches, and solutions. I support helping farmers, but disagree with these resolutions and how the issues are framed.

Instead, we encourage legislators to allocate significantly more funding to prevent invasive species from entering Hawai'i and control invasive species that are already here. Invasive species do far more damage to crops than any endangered species do. Furthermore, invasive species are a significant limiting factor in the recovery of our rare and endangered Hawaiian species by killing and harming native species, and destroying their habitat.

We also ask you to allocate significantly more funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources in general and for endangered species recovery programs specifically. Why is it that DLNR gets less than 1-2 percent of the annual budget given its huge and important mandate to protect public trust resources?

Please table these ill-conceived resolutions. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



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