

STAND. COM. REP. NO. **2069**

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 08 2018

RE: S.B. No. 2399
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2018
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 2399 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM
ADMINISTRATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council into a new entity, the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, to be administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture, that will expand upon the existing council model by adding expertise to the Board of Directors, authorizing the Board to hire staff as necessary, and mandating new duties relating to the coordination of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; The Nature Conservancy; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Local Food Coalition; Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.; Ka Ohana O Na Pua; O'ahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i; and twelve individuals.

Your Committee finds that the invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the

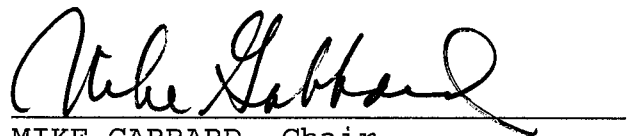


single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. In 2003, the Legislature created the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, an interagency board mandated to provide policy-level direction and coordination on invasive species issues, co-chaired by the Chairpersons of the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the Board of Agriculture. The authorizing legislation for the council did not create staff positions or a revenue source. Your Committee further finds that despite many successes, mitigation of invasive species threats and impacts often remains fragmented between agencies and is insufficiently supported through interagency data collection and management, public pest reporting, interagency response coordination, and statewide public outreach. Establishing the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority as an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture and enhancing the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs will help protect the environment, human health, culture, and the economy.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2399, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2399, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture and
Environment,

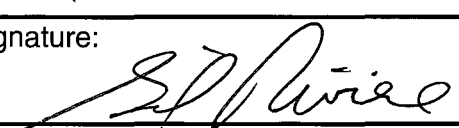


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Ninth Legislature
 State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
AEN

Bill / Resolution No.:* <i>SB 2399</i>	Committee Referral: <i>AEN, WAM</i>	Date: <i>2/2/18</i>		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
RIVIERE, Gil (VC)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
NISHIHARA, Clarence K.				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
RHOADS, Karl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
RUDERMAN, Russell E.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			
TOTAL	<i>4</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes