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HAWAII



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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 7, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2301
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

House Bill 2301 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. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this Administrative bill.**

The Department notes that establishing and funding the HISA is one of the key goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, described in postborder policy action item PosPol2.1 and postborder funding action item PosTifs1.1. Passing this measure would directly support implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The full Biosecurity Plan is available for review at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/hibp/>.

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.

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.

This measure also appropriates funds for an interagency budget to support gap-filling projects, similar to that currently operated by the HISC. These funds support the island-based Invasive Species Committees, Hawaii Ant Lab, and other projects, as well as research on new detection and control technologies designed to increase efficiency and reduce control costs. With regard to the appropriation amount in this measure for interagency invasive species project needs, the Department notes that the HISC received over \$12,000,000 in project funding requests in Fiscal Year 2018. Descriptions of the funded and unfunded projects are online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy18>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 7, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2301
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2301. 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.





The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
February 7, 2018
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2301

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 2301, Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration.** The aim of this measure is to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority (HISA), to be administratively attached to HDOA..

The HISC was created in 2003 by the legislature to improve state-level coordination to address the growing issues related to invasive species. Over the last 15 years, the HISC has addressed a broad spectrum of tasks related to policy, statewide coordination amongst agencies and individuals, and disbursement of interagency funding to support projects that fill gaps between agency mandates to manage invasive species. A lot has been accomplished through the leadership of the HISC lead agencies, volunteer working groups, and staff. However, we are not winning the battle, and we believe that we can do even more.

Some of the greatest impediments to addressing invasive species stems from our inability to raise capacity and resources commensurate with the need. Even with the successes of the current structure of the HISC there is always more work to be done. As the 2002 and 2016 LRB Reports and the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP) all state that the cost of not preventing or addressing invasive species is in the billions, and the HISC as it is currently structured cannot make the changes that are necessary. Restructuring the HISC as the HISA would elevate the issue and the work, align it more closely to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to aid in implementing and tracking the HIBP, and create dedicated funding and staff. The HISA would also add non-agency stakeholder seats to the board to create a more representative board for decision-making.

Little Fire Ants, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Brown Tree Snake are a few of the target pests that the HISC, and the projects they support, continue to work on because they threaten our way of life. There is always the threat of the next pest wreaking havoc in our islands.

The HISC has become an essential component for addressing the problems associated with invasive species for the State. To ensure their continued role and increase their capacity to tackle complex issues with invasive species, we encourage the committee to **support HB 2301.** Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Chelsea Arnott
CGAPS Planner

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2301 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 8:30AM, Room 312

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 H.B. 2301 to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture.

In 2015, the Legislative Reference Bureau released its update to the 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*. In that update, *Can't See the Forest for the (Albizia) Trees: An Invasive Species Update*, can be found at: <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legprts/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 completed that comprehensive biosecurity plan.

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February 1, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

Support of HB 2301 Relating to Invasive Species Authority (Restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture).

Wednesday, February 7, 2018, at 8:30 a.m., in Conference Room 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2301**.

HB 2301. This bill proposes to add a new chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) and repeal HRS Chapter 194 to restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) into a new entity, the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (the Authority), attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture.

LURF's Position. LURF understands that while the Council has achieved a number of successes in the past decade, mitigation of invasive species threats and impacts continue to remain fragmented between agencies and is insufficiently supported by interagency data collection and management, response coordination, and statewide public outreach. The establishment of the Authority will expand upon the existing Council model by adding additional expertise to the board of directors, hiring new staff, and mandating new duties relating to the coordination of interagency invasive species and biosecurity efforts.

Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people, and already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease. Many more harmful pests now threaten to invade all the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage.

Support of and assistance to local farmers is essential to mitigate the threats and impacts of invasive species in Hawaii and to effectively protect Hawaii's natural resources and native species. HB 2301 will assist local agricultural stakeholders by expanding the existing Council model to aid with the prevention and control of invasive species and ultimately, the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2301** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

HB-2301

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 3:56:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2301, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Good morning. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No. 2301, regarding the establishment of an Invasive Species Authority.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No. 2301 and support its passage.

House Bill No. 2099, is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it 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.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that "[w]e support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at the point of entry." (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-113 (2016)).

Given that House Bill No. 2301 establishes the Invasive Species Authority, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889

HB-2301

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:11:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:



LATE

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February 7, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2301
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 312
8:30 Am

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 HB 2301.

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]

HB 2301 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.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

Springer Kaye
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LATE



Testimony in Support: House Bill 2301
House Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 8:30 A.M., Conference Room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan and Vice-Chair DeCoite,

BIISC strongly supports House Bill 2301, which will establish the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority as a coordinating body, properly staffed and authorized to coordinate invasive species response among the agencies and implement the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. In addition, this bill appropriates significant funding to the grants program, ensuring that the daily, boots-on-the-ground survey, response, and outreach efforts are continued and expanded.

This measure is desperately needed. Every year new invasive species pests continue to arrive and become established in our islands. Our facilities and biosecurity protocols are no longer adequate to scope of the problem. In 16 years we have yet to scale up to the level of funding recommended by the LRB's 2002 report. The 100+ tasks included in the statewide biosecurity plan will take at least ten years to implement, if they are funded, so the time to being is now!

Just this month I was notified by a community member about a new invasive wood-boring beetle that attacks breadfruit, cacao, citrus, palms, and kukui. The pest burrows into the heart of the tree, lays its eggs, and the larvae tunnel through the wood until the tree collapses. There is no known treatment, other than cutting down the tree and destroying the wood. Unfortunately, although the species was identified by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture in 2009, at the height of the economic downturn, the state lacked the staff and resources to mount any response. Now we have record-breaking tourism and employment statistics statewide, yet the HDOA entomologist position on Hawaii Island is vacant and we've lost half of our UH-CTAHR Extension Agents, our experts that could direct such an effort.

The Big Island is proud of our heritage and identity at the heart of the agricultural industry, but our agricultural economy means we import a wide variety of high-risk items all year round, and that puts us at risk as the state's entry point for new invasive pests. Protecting the Big Island means protecting all of Hawaii. It is up to the state to develop a comprehensive biosecurity program to stop the influx of new pests and contain or eradicate the ones that are here. A great deal of our success depends on funding.

BIISC could be described as the clean-up crew; our role is to try to clean up the mess after new bad things arrive. When BIISC is adequately funded, we have been

successful in our eradication programs. We eradicated axis deer from the island with dedicated funding and broad interagency support. In the past five years we have driven half a dozen other target species down to almost undetectable levels, and now just monitor the sites to make sure they don't make a comeback. Before that, our funding was so low or inconsistent we could make little headway on these same pests.

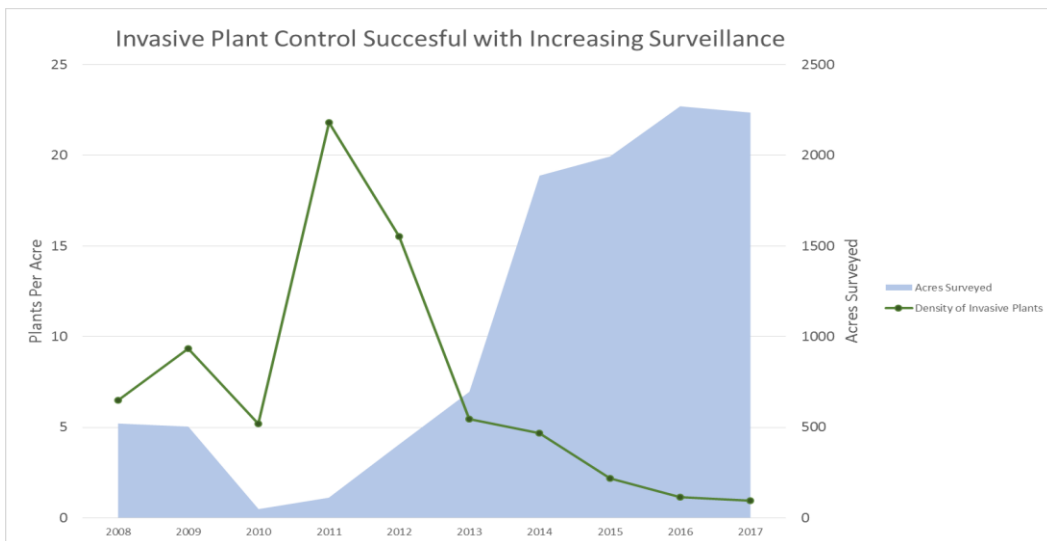


Figure 1: The large shaded area represents the acreage surveyed each year, while the colored line represents the average density of eradication targets in managed areas. The plant density has steadily declined since funding, and our ability to survey large areas, has increased. Density is now at less than 1 plant per acre. (BIISC presentation to the International Conference on Invasive Plants Management, 2017).

During the last decade the funding provided for invasive species programming in Hawaii has generally tracked the state of the economy. That is, until recently. While all economic measures have shown steady growth since 2015, the funding allocated to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council had declined by 26%, by \$1.5Mil dollars. This, in spite of new pest arrivals, ever greater need for research and response, and demonstrated success of funded projects.

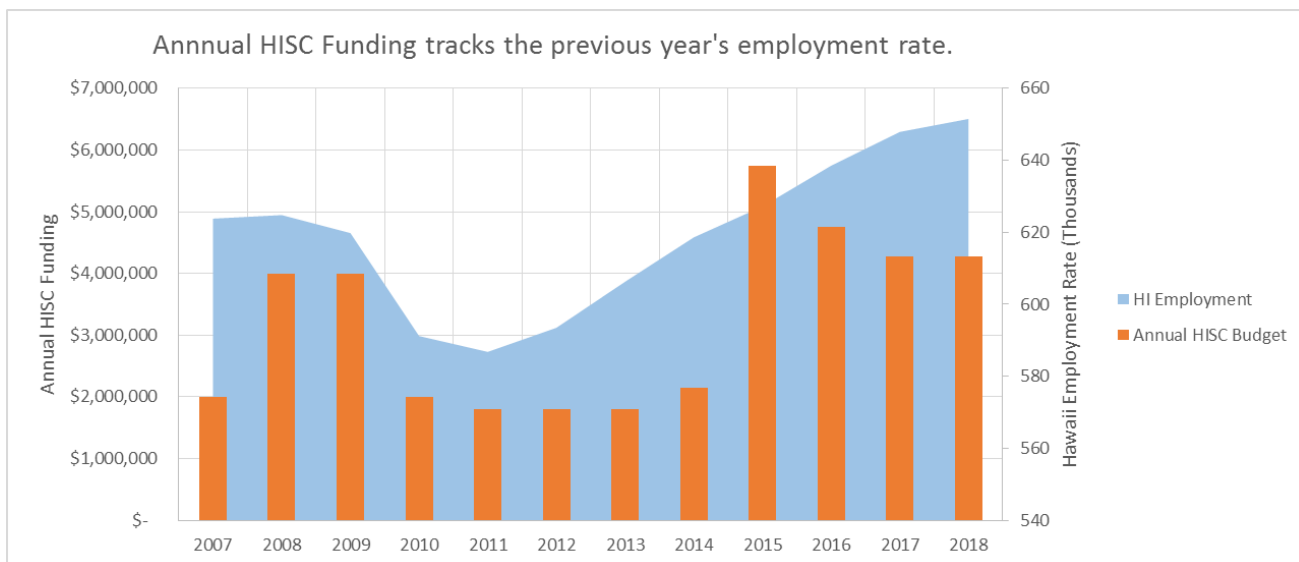


Figure 2: HISC Funding has generally tracked the economy, but has declined during the past three years in spite of strong economic growth and increased need for invasive species research and response.

Last year there were \$12 Million in grant requests for about \$4Mil in available funds. Almost all were well-reasoned, necessary programming, many quite urgent, and nearly all were well-matched by external funding sources.

BIISC supports this bill because creating the semi-autonomous Hawaii Invasive Species Authority is the right way to get the job done. Empowering the interagency coordinator with both the status and the funds needed to deal decisively with invasive species is the best step the legislature can take right now to ensure our economy, agriculture and natural resources—the resources on which our lives depend—can be preserved.

Thank you for your consideration.

Springer Kaye,
BIISC Manager

HB-2301

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:11:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	No

Comments:

This absolutely essential Bill reorganizes HISC under the Department of Agriculture, and hopefully will create the consolidation and authority needed to create policies and support for communities that are battling so many different invasive species at once. Agriculture, the future of our food supply, the environment & tourism, property values and quality of life will greatly suffer and deteriorate unless we take up the challenges that invasive species pose in a MUCH more responsible and action oriented way. NOW! Mahalo

HB-2301

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 7:42:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/7/2018 8:30:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Yuen		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Richard P. Creagan and Vice-Chair Lynn DeCoite:

I support HB2301 which restructures the Hawaii invasive species council into the Hawaii invasive species authority to better deal with invasion of unwanted and dangerous pests.

I am Nathan Yuen. I work as an accountant for an engineering consulting firm during the week but on the weekends I become an amateur naturalist, hiker, and photographer. For the past 20 years I have been venturing to remote parts of our islands to photograph the native plants and animals of the Hawaiian Islands many of which are rare or endangered. I have a blog – HawaiianForest.Com – which documents some of the rarest species on the planet.

I served as a commissioner for the State of Hawaii’s Natural Area Reserves System (NARS) Commission administered by the Department of Land and Natural Resources from 2013 to 2017. I have a blog -- HawaiianForest,Com -- that documents some of the rarest species on the planet -- which live in Hawaii. I currently serve as Conservation Chair for the Sierra Club of Hawaii Executive Committee. I am also a member of the Hawaiian Entomological Society.

I have seen firsthand what happens when invasive plants like clidemia, strawberry guava, and kahiki ginger take over a native ecosystem and replace the landscape in a veritable monoculture of invasive weeds. The biodiversity of the land is lost and the habitat for many animals is lost forever, causing many of them to go extinct. We cannot allow this to happen on our watch.

Due to modern transportation many invasive pests – dengue fever, zika virus, rat lung disease, coconut rhinoceros beetle, fire ants, miconia, etc. arrive almost weekly in our islands. Not only do they wreck havoc on our native ecosystems, agricultural farms, tourist areas, but they can have terrible consequences on human health.

We need to rethink how the different agencies that handle various aspects of biosecurity should be restructured to create a faster and more effective response. Some of these invasions can be nipped in the bud if we are quicker to identify the threat and wipe them out before they have a chance to reproduce and spread.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important measure. I strongly support HB2301 to close the gaps and improve the coordination between the various agencies handling biosecurity so Hawaii can respond more effectively to invasive species.

Sincerely,
Nathan Yuen