

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, February 23, 2018
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2399, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Senate Bill 2399, Senate Draft 1 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) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

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. A summary of these proposed projects is available on the HISC website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2399 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

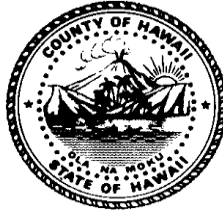
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2399 SD1. This bill will provide the vehicle for the restructuring of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (HISA). The restructuring will attach the HISA to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture which will 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.



Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



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Chair: Environmental
Management Committee

Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii
Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Hawai'i State Senate

February 21, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2399, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by WAM on 02-23-18 11:00AM in conference room 211**

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2399, which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, to be 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. It also appropriates funds for the authority and relevant interagency invasive species projects.

The introduction of an invasive species to an area – intentional or otherwise – can have devastating effects on a native environment. Hawai'i, with its delicate and isolated ecosystems, is especially vulnerable to these potentially irreparable disturbances. In 2014, tropical storm Iselle wreaked havoc on my home District of Puna. Albizia trees (an introduced species and one of the world's fastest growing hardwoods) were a leading cause of damage, destroying power lines and blocking roads. Residents were left without electricity for weeks, and road damages amounted to over \$13 million.

As a representative and decades-long resident of the District of Puna, I do not hesitate to support any measure to regulate the risk invasive species pose. Please consider the important impact this Bill will have on the environment and economy of Hawai'i, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eileen O'Hara". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

SB-2399-SD-1

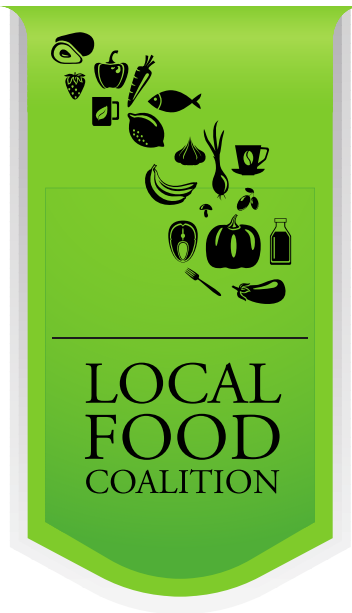
Submitted on: 2/21/2018 4:27:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

For me, a farmer in Hawai'i, this is the MOST important bill of the session, and Bill and the Authority Bill. Without this piece of Legislation passing with adequate funding attached, we can consider that property values, quality of life, tourism, and our children's future will be totally compromised. I have many good friends who have left Hawai'i in this past year, people that communities should never have lost, due to Little Fire Ant and other Invasives. This does not need to continue. Please support this Bill! Mahalo



4 Ag Hawai'i

Hawai'i Aquaculture & Aquaponics Association

Hawai'i Association of Independent Schools

Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council

Hawai'i Farm Bureau Federation

Hawai'i Farmers' Union United

Hawai'i Food Industry Association

Hawai'i Food Manufacturers Association

Kohala Center

Malama Kaua'i

Maui School Garden Network

Ulupono Initiative

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Friday, February 23, 2018 – 11:00 AM - Room 211

RE: SB 2399 SD1 - Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration - In Support

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Local Food Coalition supports SB 2399 SD1, which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, to be 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.

The Local Food Coalition is an organization comprising of farmers, ranchers, livestock producers, investors and other organizations working to provide Hawai'i's food supply.

Invasive species threaten agricultural production. In addition, they threaten the natural environment, the health of Hawaii's residents and the State's economy. We support SB 2399 SD1 as it will provide enhanced coordination and the leadership, staffing and funding to help mitigate current and future threats and impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony. We ask for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Lori Lum
808-544-8343
llum@wik.com

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:20:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 3:52:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 6:19:03 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2018 7:38:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:16:18 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Pro	Testifying for Farmer and artist	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is written in a very vague way, so I'm not really sure what measures would be taken to build up our weak response to bio-security. I own a coffee and macadamia nut farm in Kona and also am an artist specializing in native species.

I feel a combination of disheartened and furious when I see the lack of attention, knowledge and resources given to handling biosecurity in Hawaii. There are basic practices that can be legislated that will make a huge difference, but now lawmakers have waited to do this and we are in a state of crisis with increasing damage being done to our crops and our beloved 'Ohi'a tree by insects and microbes that never should have been able to land here.

I recently visited with a friend from Alaska and asked her about invasive species there. She looked surprised and said that it's not really an issue. No big surprise there. It is an issue here because of the bio-friendly environment of this land. It's time for lawmakers to step up and listen to advocates and experts and take action to preserve our health, environment and economy.

I support this bill and ask that bio-security become a priority in Hawaii.

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:57:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz and Vice-Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran:

I support SB2399 SD1 which transforms 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 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 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 SB2399 SD1 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

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:24:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support