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To: Senate WAM
RE: SB2399

LATE

Aloha,

BIISC would like to express strong support for SB2399, creating the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority as a first step in implementing a comprehensive state Biosecurity plan and allocating dedicated funding for invasive species control in Hawaii.

Over the last 20 years on the Big Island, we have witnessed an onslaught of negative impacts to residential life, the agriculture industry, and our economy due to harmful introduced species. Children are stung at school and in their beds by little fire ants. Residents have endured serious disability due to the rat lungworm parasite. Homeowners have suffered millions of dollars in financial losses due to falling albizia. Kona coffee growers struggle to control coffee berry borer, even as a new introduction, the longhorn beetle, has begun to destroy cacao trees in Puna. Ranchers across the island have waged a decades-long battle against christmas berry, gorse, and fire weed, only to receive the grim news in 2017 that a new spittle bug is ravaging hundreds of acres of pasture – with no known treatment. Rapid ohī'a death threatens to devastate our watersheds. In our island communities, invasive species are not an abstract concept, but a reality that impacts each of us on a daily basis.

We urge this legislature to be the one that begins the turnaround for Hawaii. Invasive species must be taken seriously if our agriculture, tourism, and way of life in Hawaii is to survive. Solid coordination between state departments is critical to the success of any invasive species response plan, and the proposed HISA structure will allow for stronger collaboration both within the state and with our county, federal, and NGO partners. Dedicated funding is critical for planning adequate responses to current and potential threats.

If one thing is clear from the economic research on invasive species, it is that dollars spent on prevention, early detection, and rapid response are worth hundreds and even thousands more in savings down the line. Little fire ant alone is predicted to cost billions to Hawaii in just the next three decades if we do not improve our response. Passing SB2399, with the associated funding allocation, is a crucial step in the right direction for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Franny Kinslow Brewer
Communications Director



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February 23, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2399, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 211
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 SB 2399, SD1.

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."

LATE

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]

SB 2399, SD1, 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2018 11:00AM Room 211

In SUPPORT of SB 2399 SD1 Relating to invasive species program administration

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

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i, a member of the Common Good Coalition, **supports SB 2399 SD1**, which transforms the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council into the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority in efforts to better deal with the invasion of unwanted and dangerous non-native pests.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, which started as an outdoors and hiking club, has been active in nature conservation in the islands for 50 years. Over the decades, we've seen first hand 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 continue to allow this to happen.

Due to modern transportation many invasive pests (e.g., dengue fever, zika virus, rat lung disease, coconut rhinoceros beetle, fire ants, miconia) arrive almost weekly in our islands. Not only do they wreak havoc on our native ecosystems, agricultural lands, and tourist areas, but they also have terrible consequences for human health.

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

We urge the Committee to pass this measure, which will ultimately close the gaps and improve the coordination between the various agencies handling biosecurity such that Hawai'i can respond more effectively to invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support of SB 2399 SD1**.

LATE

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:41:17 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ursula Snover	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 6:35:54 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Spencer Wright	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of rural Hawai'i, I face invasive species every day. From strawberry guava to little fire ants, these aliens corrupt our forests, corrode our way of life, and threaten our economy. What would it have meant for our Hawai'i if we had had a more robust invasive species program in place 20 or 30 years ago? Much more importantly, what will it mean to our Hawai'i 20 years from now if we DON'T put a more robust program in place now? What species will be destroying our home if we don't act? Will we see brown tree snakes in our trees? Will we see new species of fire ants? Will we see wasps stinging our keiki and destroying our cherished flora like those that nearly wiped out our wiliwili trees? Please lend your support to SB 2399, and please support your constituents' fight against invasive species!

Sincerely,

Spencer Kaleo Wright, Mountain View, Hawai'i Island

LATE

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 4:34:55 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maki Morinoue	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

What will arrive for us all tomorrow? No more invasive species!

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 8:51:41 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Rounds	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 11:50:49 PM

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

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Testifying for Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2399-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2018 7:42:50 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion McHenry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would testify in person for this bill if I lived on Oahu. I am thankful that I am able to testify online from Kauai. I strongly support this bill. Invasive species affect every island and community. Our state needs a strong comprehensive plan to deal with invasive species. Please pass this measure.

Thank you