

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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 AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 2, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2399. 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
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
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 2, 2018
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2399
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Senate Bill 2399 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.

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To: Senate Committee on Agriculture & the Environment
RE: SB2399

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.

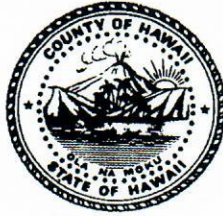
If one thing is clear from the economic research on invasive species, it is that dollars spent on prevention, early detection, and rapid response are worth hundreds and even thousands more in savings down the line. Little fire ant alone is predicted to cost billions to Hawaii in just the next three decades 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

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



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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 Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate

January 31, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2399, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by AEN on 02-02-18 1:15PM in conference room 224**

Aloha Chair Gabbard 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,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 2, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2399
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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.

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]

SB 2399 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 HAWAII
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 2, 2018 1:15PM Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of SB 2399 Relating to invasive species program administration

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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**, 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.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B.2399 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, February 2, 2018, 1:15PM, Room 224

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 S.B. 2399 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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The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 2, 2018
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2399

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of SB 2399, *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 SB 2399**. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Chelsea Arnott
CGAPS Planner

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 7:45:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:23:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer K Camp		Support	No

Comments:

As a former biologist and resident of Hawaii, I fully support the integration of the invasive species program with the Department of Agriculture. This reorganization will not only consolidate and streamline the efforts to protect our native habitats, but also help ensure continued monetary support. Our unique island habitat is our most important economic treasure. Without this, our tourist industry would suffer, and thereby our economy.

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:09:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth hansen		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Senators: Our state is a fragile eco-system. Our need to best manage our resources for protection & maintenance from invasive species must be handled well. Please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Elizabeth Hansen

Hakalau HI 96710

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 8:16:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Kathleen Howe	University of Hawaii, Hilo	Support	No

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2399.

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 11:52:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:35:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 10:19:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 11:58:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 4:39:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Dickinson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 5:18:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patricia dickinson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:00:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Besides funding the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan, this Bill is the next most important invasive species bill of this session. Without proper Authority to create a strategy and implement it, Hawaii's real estate values, tourism, agriculture, quality of life, and overall ecosystem health will suffer and will deteriorate as time goes on. While most invasive species are currently centered on Hawai'i Island, without proper strategies, staff, and funding to enhance our porous security, it is only a matter of time before Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Kauai experience similar levels of invasives. This is the final year to pass this bill. Please do so for the sake of your children and children's children.

SB-2399

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 9:24:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/2/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ROBYN E BRICKLAND		Support	No

Comments:

Here on the Big Island we really badly need support to eradicate this invasive species, LFA. We do not want a repeat performance of the failure with the coqui frog that has taken over our island and destroyed our peace and quiet and will no doubt be destroying the ecosystem here, since it ahs no predator. Please, please do the right thing so that there is authority and funding for research and eradication of this LFA invasion which is fast disrupting our environment, economy and health.