

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER & LAND**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2559
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Rhoads and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2559 that clarifies the authorization of a department or county, or its employees or authorized agents, to enter private premises to control or eradicate the invasive species applies to reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The Department works closely with each island invasive species committee (ISC), often to address early post-entry invasive pest establishment. In working with the island invasive species committees, it is critically important to address a new invasive pest species as soon as it is detected. If the intent of this bill is to empower county ISCs, then the measure improves the odds of successful eradication of an invasive pest by leveraging enforcement resources. Recent serious invasive pest species outbreaks such as the little fire ant and coqui frog are excellent examples how the Department and the island invasive species committees can move quickly to eliminate newly established invasive pests as long as access to private property is secured.

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
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 7, 2018
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2559
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 2559 proposes to amend Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to clarify that the authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

The Department is the administrative host of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, the entity codified in Chapter 194, HRS. The Department recognizes that it may be problematic to confirm the presence of an invasive species on private property prior to obtaining access to that property. This measure would clarify that reasonable suspicion of presence would allow the state, county, and authorized agents to utilize the authority to enter private property in order to both confirm the presence of an invasive species and then perform a control action.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Water and Land
February 7, 2018
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2559

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of SB 2559, *Relating to Invasive Species***. The aim of this measure is to clarify the criteria under which agencies may enter private property after reasonable notice is given. This bill would allow agencies to proceed with a request to enter private property when the presence of a HISC-designated invasive species for eradication is found or *is reasonably suspected to be present* on the property. The proposed language in this bill would greatly help efforts to eradicate species like Little Fire Ants where in areas where eradication is still possible. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 2559.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

Springer Kaye
23 E. Kawili St.
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www.biisc.org



Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Bill 2559
Wednesday, February 7, 2018 1:15 PM Conference Room 224

Aloha,

BIISC would like to express our support for Senate Bill 2559, which clarifies that the authority to enter private property to control or eradicate an invasive species also applies to situations in which the invasive species is reasonably likely to be present.

In essence, this bill recognizes that conducting a survey is fundamental to an efficient and effective eradication program, and is rightly included the already-existing authority in Chapter 194-5. I'd like to offer some examples to show why this clarification might be needed.

The invasive species committees on each island are working hard to protect our native forests from Rapid Ohia Death. We survey all ohia forests on each island up to four times per year via helicopter, to catch the earliest sign of disease and eradicate it before it spreads. This is particularly critical on the islands other than the Big Island, which are not yet infected. When we spot a stand of dead or dying ohia, we cannot be certain that it is infected by ROD, or affected by some other issue, until we walk up to that tree and collect a sample, and run it through a genetic test. If ROD-symptomatic trees are spotted on a private property, but that property owner is not cooperative, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture may obtain a court order to enter the property, to address the diseased trees and save the remaining healthy forest—just as they would for any other serious invasive pest spotted on private property. However, it may not be clear that the authority applies, since the trees spotted from the air would only be *reasonably suspected of carrying ROD*. The first detection of ROD on Maui or Oahu would not be a good time to find out that HDOA needs a more specific authority.

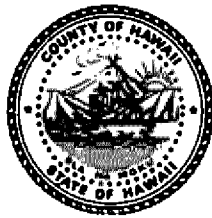
Similarly, when we find a new invasive threat on one property, it is generally quite likely that the neighboring lot is also infested. If the neighbor refuses entry, then that property could become a big gap in the eradication effort. That property might silently harbor the pest for years, re-infesting neighboring land no matter how hard the Department and neighbors work to keep their own properties clean.

The threat in that scenario could be something as tiny as a little fire ant or coffee berry borer, as large as an axis deer, as annoying as coqui, or as urgent as a disease-carrying mosquito breeding site, so long as it is something difficult to spot, and whose presence or absence is impossible to prove without being on the property. In every case, these gaps risk serious economic and environmental harm to the surrounding community and the state.

We thank you for your consideration and commend you all for your attention to invasive species issues this legislative session—your efforts are truly appreciated.

Springer Kaye
BIISC Manager

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossov
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 5, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Karl Rhoads
Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Gabbard, Senator Rhoads and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2559, Relating to Invasive Species
Hearing Date: 02/07/18 – 1:15 pm; Conference Room 224


Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2559.

The Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top-priority issue that deserves your attention. Even our best efforts are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests and limited resources make it imperative that we work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems.

SB 2559 would put the State and the counties in a better position to fight against invasives. It would take a valuable tool and make it stronger.

We ask that SB 2559 be approved.

Respectfully submitted,

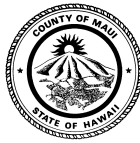

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 5, 2018

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Mike White
Council Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike White", is written over the printed name and title.

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2559, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of SB 2559 is to clarify that the authority of state, county, and authorized agents' to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this proposed bill. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Environmental protection through the eradication of invasive species is a statewide and partnership driven effort. The County of Maui works closely with the Maui Invasive Species Committee ("MISC") to fight against invasive threats to our endangered species, native plants, fragile ecosystems, and overall quality of life.
2. Currently, MISC's ability to fully implement eradication programs of invasive species is hampered by the refusal of owners to access their property. Last legislative session, the county or its agents were granted the authority to access private properties after reasonable notice to eradicate invasive species. This measure simply clarifies that access is now allowed when reasonable suspicion exists.
3. This simple clarification will allow for the full deployment of comprehensive efforts to ensure invasive species can be fully contained and eradicated. All options are needed when trying to fulfill the goal of preserving the environment for future generations.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiicounty.gov

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, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate

February 2, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2559, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by AEN on 02-07-18 1:15PM in conference room 224**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2559, which clarifies that State, County, and authorized agents' authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

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. Certain invasive species, such as the introduced albizia tree (which is one of the fastest growing hardwoods in the world), can quickly become threatening menaces to structures on adjacent private properties. Amending the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to give authorities further ability to find and remove invasive species is a step towards preserving our unique island home.

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. The impacts of storms and hurricanes, such as tropical storm Iselle in 2014, caused over \$13 million in road damage in my Puna subdivision alone. The majority of that cost was due to toppled albizia trees. Please consider the positive ecologic and economic impacts that passing this bill will have, 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

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Robert Carroll

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Stacy Crivello

Councilmembers
Alika Atay
Elle Cochran
Don S. Guzman
Riki Hokama
Kelly T. King
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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February 6, 2018

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard , Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Robert Carroll
Councilmember, East Maui

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert Carroll".

DATE: February 6, 2018

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2018; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2559, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important measure. The purpose of SB 2559 is to clarify that the authority of state, county, and authorized agent's to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Environmental protection should be an state wide effort where county and state agencies can effectively coordinate responses to protect our fragile eco systems, native plants, and overall quality of life.
2. Currently, the Maui Invasive Species Committee ("MISC"), ability to fully implement eradication programs is hampered by the refusal of owners to access their property. This measure simply clarifies that access is now allowed when reasonable suspicion exists.
3. This simple clarification will allow for full, rapid deployment of comprehensive efforts to ensure success in containment and eradication endeavors.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.

**Testimony before the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, and
Committee on Water and Land**

**by
The Hawaiian Electric Companies**

**Wednesday, February 07, 2018
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224**

Senate Bill 2559 –Relating to Invasive Species

Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaiian Electric Companies are submitting this testimony in strong support of SB 2559.

SB 2559 clarifies that the State, counties, and their authorized agents have the authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species when there is reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property. It further clarifies that this rule applies regardless of whether the invasive species have been intentionally placed there, or naturally disbursed. Hawaiian Electric Companies support the bill for the following reasons:

- Albizia trees are an invasive species and a hazard to public safety and critical infrastructure.
- Stands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow on many public and private properties. Tropical Storm Iselle brought down many Albizia trees, blocked roadways, and caused millions of dollars in damage to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.
- There are many landowners that either refuse or fail to respond to repeated notices to control or eradicate invasive species on their property.
- The ability to allow the State, counties, and/or their authorized agents to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species is essential to mitigating issues caused by invasive species like the Albizia tree, and ensures that Hawaii's public safety and critical infrastructure needs are met.
- SB 2559 will help further efforts to eradicate invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

To: Honorable Chair Gabbard, Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
members and Honorable Chair Rhoads, Senate Committee on Water and Land members
Regarding: SB 2559
Date: February 7, 1:15 p.m.
Testimony By: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

My name is Keith Dane. I am the Hawaii Policy Advisor for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony on behalf of our members and supporters in Hawaii.

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, works to protect all animals, including both wildlife and cats. The domestic cat is often labeled a non-indigenous invasive species by conservationists looking to mitigate threats to native wildlife species. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council lists *felis catus*, the domestic (feral) cat, under examples of invasive species in Hawaii on their websiteⁱ. Additionally, the Department of Land and Natural Resources webpage on invasive species notes, "Currently there is no official State designation for invasive species in Hawaii, though the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council is in the process of developing administrative rules to do so"ⁱⁱ. We are concerned that bills aimed to better equip agencies and county governments to control invasive species will, whether intentionally or unintentionally, extend their reach to domestic cats.

Given that housecats, indoor/outdoor pet cats, free-roaming lost and stray cats, and unowned feral cats are all the same species, enabling domestic cats to be classified as invasive species alongside fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles is overly broad and can lead to conflicts with existing anti-cruelty laws that apply to domestic cats, which are defined as "pet animals" in §711-1100 of Title 37, Hawaii's Penal Code. Moreover, including domestic cats in programs that allow for the eradication of this popular pet does not sit well with the public.

Senate Bill 2559 expands the ability to control and eradicate invasive species, including the ability to enter private property in order to carry out those actions. Clearly it is not the legislature's intent to allow government agents to remove or cause harm to a resident's cat in their own backyard.

We respectfully ask that this bill be amended to exempt "pet animals" from the provisions.

The HSUS understands that managing community (feral and stray) cats is a complex issue that concerns many legislators and agencies mandated to serve and protect the public. We share common ground with conservationists and animal welfare advocates as our ultimate goal is no unowned, and many fewer owned, cats outdoors leading to much less risk to the cats themselves, reduced predation of birds and wildlife, the elimination of potential public health concerns and nuisance-related issues. We recognize that there is an urgent need for practical and effective solutions to the challenges associated with the presence of cats outdoors. However, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to managing cats in the environment; with determination, innovation, and collaboration, we can implement and sustain effective programs to humanely resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts.

We thank you for your consideration of this import issue and urge you to clarify that pet animals are not covered by this bill language.

ⁱ <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/invasive-species-profiles/>

ⁱⁱ <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/wildlife/invasives/>



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair | Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair | Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 7, 2018
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 224

SB 2559 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Clarifies that state, county, and authorized agents' authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Respective Committees:

My name is Dale Sandlin, and I am Managing Director of the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our 150+ member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of approximately 25% of the State's total land mass.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **opposes** SB 2559 as it lends itself to a slippery slope.

The cattle industry is very understanding in how response time can play a critical role in the control and eradication of an invasive species as we are currently dealing with many invasive species including fireweed and the two-lined spittle bug. When these invasive species are observed, it's often the private landowner calling the state for help in their control.

The controlling mechanism to gain access to perform these eradication efforts, HRS 194-5, is already heavy handed and allows the state to gain access to a property that is currently deemed to have found invasive species on the landowner's property. To include reasonable suspicion of an invasive species, regardless of the reason of its presence, provides a slippery slope in granting access to private land.

While we support invasive species control efforts, we believe that the current statutes provide adequate access and proper mechanisms for control and eradication efforts. We respectfully ask this committee to oppose SB 2559 and we appreciate the opportunity to testify on this important matter.





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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 7, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 2559
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committees:

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 is in strong support of SB 2559, which clarifies authority to enter private lands for the management of invasive species identified by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

Attempts to access invasive species on private lands have, at times, met with resistance. The extremely aggressive Little Fire Ant (LFA) and the destructive Ringspot Virus are two examples in which access to private lands was necessary but was not always granted. There is a clear need for authority to access property, where widespread harm threatens the environment and the community.

This measure defines invasive species as those identified by the Council. As proposed, it is unclear which invasive species will require action.

We believe that the Invasive Species Council should create a list of invasive species that will require such intervention and that this list be approved by the Board of Agriculture, as the Department of Agriculture is the regulatory authority for control of invasive species. A provision can be added for emergency listings, with Chair approval, if a new species is detected in Hawaii and timely eradication is required. That additional species would then be submitted to the Board for listing at the next scheduled meeting.

We respectfully suggest amending HRS 194-2(6) to read:

(6) Identify and record all invasive species present in the State; Maintain a list of priority invasive species/diseases that cause high risk to the public health and safety or the environment or agriculture.

Examples for listing could be LFA for public health, ohia rust for environment and papaya ringspot for agriculture (when first discovered).

- (1) Listed as a priority invasive species or is a new species not previously known to occur in Hawaii and declared by the Chair of the Department of Agriculture as a pest requiring eradication to protect public health, the environment or agriculture, and
- (2) ~~(1)~~ Found on private property[,]; or
- (3) ~~(2)~~ Reasonably suspected to be on private property, based on the results of systematic surveys or reports or proximity to known populations,

HFB believes such clarifying language is needed for transparency to the public of priorities identified by the Council. This could ensure that there is a clear methodology for declaring an invasive species a threat that would require necessary action.

HFB strongly supports the intent of this measure and request your consideration of the proposed amendments to protect the people, environment and agriculture of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comment on this important subject.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2559 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 7, 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. 2559 clarifying that authorized agencies may—upon reasonable suspicion from systematic surveys or proximity to known populations—enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. The Biosecurity Plan notes the ability to enforce biosecurity rules on private land as a critical issue. In many instances, private properties are adjacent to public lands and other private properties, including important natural and agricultural areas, where the efforts of public and private land managers to control invasive species may be frustrated or even negated if a neighboring private land owner cannot or will not take similar measures.

The ability of authorized agencies to enter onto private property assists in the timely and effective containment and control of newly introduced and more established invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Brian J. Doyle Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Kris N. Kobayashi Eiichiro Kuwana
Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui James C. Polk Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith (Chair) Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

SB-2559

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 4:26:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 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-2559

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 12:30:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2018 1:15:00 PM

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 AND ENVIRONMENT, AND
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018
Wednesday, February 7, 2018
1:15 p.m.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

RE: Testimony in Support of SB 2559, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

To the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair; the Honorable Gil Riviere, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

To the Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; the Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

Good afternoon. My name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County (“OCC”) Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill

No. 2559 regarding entry onto private property upon reasonable suspicion to believe there are invasive species therein.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No .2559 and supports its passage.

Senate Bill No.2559 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it clarifies the state, county, and authorized agents' authority to enter private property to control and eradicate invasive species also applies when there is a reasonable suspicion that invasive species are present on that property.

Specifically, the DPH Platform provides that we "support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at the point of entry." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No.2559 allows authorized entry onto private property upon reasonable suspicion to believe there are invasive species therein, 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