

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**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 Committee on  
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, March 1, 2017  
9:30 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 558  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 558 proposes to establish five full-time invasive species technicians within the Maui branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW). **The Department supports this initiative, as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget.**

The Department recognizes the extreme invasive species challenges faced by East Maui, as described in SECTION 1 of this measure. Populations of *Miconia*, little fire ants, and coqui frogs are at critical points where years of progress may be lost if additional resources are not utilized for these efforts. These species have been managed under partnerships including the Maui Invasive Species Committee and Hawaii Ant Lab (both projects of the University of Hawaii), with support from DOFAW's Maui Branch and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. Field capacity has largely been handled through targeted temporary work. The addition of permanent civil service positions as described in this measure would allow the Department to better collaborate with partners in these efforts and would contribute to long-term stability of invasive species control efforts on Maui.

A key focus of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP) is increasing the Department's ability to respond to invasive species affecting Hawaii's forests and other natural resources. The HIBP notes that the capacity for DOFAW branches to respond to invasive species threats is inadequate, with some branches having no permanent invasive species technicians. The HIBP recommends adding 45 invasive species technicians statewide over the next 10 years, adding in each biennium two technicians to the Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii branches, with an

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

**KEKOA KALUHIWA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

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

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

additional technician for Molokai (HIBP action #113, PosTifs1.10). Passage of this measure would greatly advance the State's progress in implementing the HIBP.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
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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**

**MARCH 1, 2017  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 558  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 558, which provides an appropriation of \$500,000 to hire 5 permanent full time positions for technicians at the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Maui unit, to conduct the work of eradication of invasive pest species on the island of Maui. The Department supports this measure.

Invasive pest species put our native forests, landscapes, and cultivated fields at risk. They are the single greatest issue of concern for their impact on our tourism industry. Invasive pest species such as Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle can quickly destroy our coconut palms, which are emblematic of our tropical environment and tourist destination, as well as other established palm trees. Equally, if not more, problematic is Miconia which is a terrible scourge in our native forests. It smothers the trees that they grow on and ultimately kills them because of the ability of the Miconia to deny sunshine to the trees and plants growing in the forest. Additionally, it would be good to provide funding for the other units of DLNR Department of Forestry and Wildlife on the other major islands in our State. Concentrating resources on Maui is commendable but the need is Statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017 3:58 PM  
**To:** WAM Testimony  
**Cc:** dale@hicattle.org  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB558 on Mar 1, 2017 09:30AM\*

**SB558**

Submitted on: 2/27/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

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**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 9:30 am  
Room 211

Support for SB 558 Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 558, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

Experts recommend a minimum investment of \$50 million a year to, essentially, implement the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The plan includes the most important actions we can take to prevent invasive species from entering the islands and prevent the spread of invasive species already here. We still have a way to go here, however, piecemeal funding is better than nothing, and East Maui needs help.

Invasive species are the most significant environmental and economic threat in Hawai'i. If you bathe or drink water, you should be concerned about the destruction of essential watersheds on ceded lands. Invasive species are responsible for the loss of habitat for native plants and animals, and contribute to species endangerment and extinctions in Hawai'i. Invasive species degrade cultural and public recreation areas, rendering these areas unusable (e.g., invasive strawberry guava in Hawaiian forests). The introduction of biting flies and stinging midges (for example) could destroy our visitor industry.

Unfortunately, the alien species invasion is getting worse. It is amazing how so few people realize this and how relatively little money is appropriated to protect us from invasive species. Please help the people of East Maui and pass SB 558. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



Miconia, littlefire ant, and ivy gourd, and miconia – three of dozens of invasive species in East Maui.

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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





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March 1, 2017

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SB 558: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 211  
9:30 am

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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 **supports SB 558**, to establish five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions at the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife (DLNR DOFAW), Maui branch, to address invasive plants and animals in east Maui.

HFB supports a robust biosecurity program, including a strategy to stop the influx of new pests and to contain the spread of the ones that are already here.

As you know, agriculture in Hawaii is struggling due to a myriad of reasons, not the least of which is that farming here is extremely expensive and difficult, putting local farmers at a significant disadvantage in comparison to mainland and foreign farmers. One of the biggest challenges also comes from the continuing deluge of harmful pests that destroy crops and threaten farmers' ability to produce food and other agricultural products. Although a vocal minority fails to understand the magnitude of this problem to farmers, they are beginning to understand how these pests can affect their own health, lifestyle, and our watersheds.

As farmers, we know that the islands have been invaded by destructive insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests. In fact, to the displeasure of some, we are often forced, as part of an Integrated Pest Management program, to use pesticides to combat these harmful pests, much as Hawaii's natural resource managers do.

HFB supports the appropriation to DLNR DOFAW to establish five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions for Maui, so that they can address invasive plants and animals. Regarding the focus on East Maui in particular, we hope that DOFAW has been consulted with and will be permitted the discretion to deploy these technicians and resources to where they are most needed on Maui.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure and for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**SB558**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Elle Cochran	Individual	Support	No

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**SB558**

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<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	Individual	Support	No

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