

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### VOTING MEMBERS

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BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 30, 2017  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

### SENATE BILL 776 SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Senate Bill 776 Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 would 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 HISC supports this measure.**

The HISC, established in 2003, is a collaborative of six State departments co-chaired by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and HDOA. The HISC performs a broad spectrum of policy and coordination duties and develops 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. Since its establishment in 2003, DLNR has provided existing staff resources to effectuate the directions of the HISC.

This measure would restructure the HISC through two key amendments:

- Expansion of the board to include three non-ex-officio seats, 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.
- Rather than being administratively hosted within an existing agency, the HISA would become an attached agency with authorization for the board to hire staff.

This measure would attach the HISA administratively to HDOA. The HISC notes that DLNR would remain a co-chair of the board, and notes that both agencies have substantial mandates relating to invasive species. HDOA would be an appropriate agency to which the HISA could be attached.

Establishing the HISA is a key recommendation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (2017-2027), which is part of the Governor's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative. Biosecurity Plan action item #82 (PosPol 2.1) describes the need to enact legislation restructuring the HISC as the HISA, and item #104 (PosTifs 1.1) describes the need to fund the operating cost and interagency budget needs of this program. The HISA would be the primary entity responsible for facilitating implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan and would be responsible for tracking progress toward implementation and providing reports to the legislature.

With regard to the appropriation in this measure for interagency invasive species project needs, the HISC solicited pre-proposals for Fiscal Year 2018, totaling approximately \$10,000,000. These pre-proposals are available online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy18/>. These critical projects include the maintenance of the Invasive Species Committees for the early detection of and rapid response to invasive plants and insects, maintaining the work of the Hawaii Ant Lab to control little fire ants statewide, and new research and control efforts for Rapid Ohia Death and mosquitoes.

With regard to the appropriation in this measure for operating costs for the HISA, the HISC notes that the initial estimate of \$500,000 should be sufficient to establish the agency with a small number of coordinating staff, equipment, and office space. The HISC notes that making an appropriation for operating costs in addition to the appropriation for project implementation ensures that the establishment of the HISA will not impact the critical on-the-ground work achieved by funded projects.

The HISC notes that several measures this session pertain to Chapter 194 and the HISC. Should the HISA be established, these measures would need to be amended to reflect association with the new attached agency. These measures include:

- House Bill 904, which would establish an invasive species rapid response special fund to be managed by the HISC
- House Bill 606 and Senate Bill 637, which would authorize counties to enter into private property for the control and eradication of invasive species pursuant to designations made by the HISC
- House Bill 100 and Senate Bill 192, which include \$750,000 in the base budget for the HISC and a request for \$4,000,000 to be converted to the base budget pursuant to Act 84, Session Laws of Hawaii, 2015. This sum of \$4,750,000 constitutes the project implementation budget for the HISC in Fiscal Year 18, and would be replaced by the appropriations in Section 7 of this measure for project implementation under the HISA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 30, 2017  
3:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 776 SD2 HD1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES ADMINISTRATION**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 776 SD2 HD1. 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

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FIRST DEPUTY

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

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
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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 House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Thursday, March 30, 2017  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 776, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Senate Bill 776, Senate Draft 2, House 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. Amendments in Senate Draft 1 would clarify the ability of the HISA to recover expenses of a control effort from a non-compliant property owner who causes such expenses to be incurred. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

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.

This measure also appropriates funds for an interagency budget to support gap-filling projects, similar to that currently operated by the HISC. The amount of funding requested for this appropriation matches the need identified by invasive species practitioners for interagency projects in Fiscal Year 18. Pre-proposals describing potential uses of appropriated funds were developed by researchers and project leads across various agencies, and can be found in detail on the HISC website.

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. Support for a stronger interagency coordinating body is also a key recommendation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (2017-2027), which is part of the Governor's Sustainable Hawaii Initiative. The HISA would be the primary entity responsible for facilitating implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan and would be responsible for tracking progress toward implementation and providing reports to the legislature.

With regard to the appropriation amount in this measure for interagency invasive species project needs, the Department notes that the HISC has solicited pre-proposals for Fiscal Year 2018, totaling roughly \$10,000,000. These pre-proposals are available online at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/projects/fy18/>. These critical projects include the maintenance of the Invasive Species Committees for the early detection of and rapid response to invasive plants and insects, maintaining the work of the Hawaii Ant Lab to control little fire ants statewide, and new research and control efforts for Rapid Ohia Death and mosquitoes. With regard to the appropriation amount in the measure for operational costs of the HISA, the Department notes that the amount described in the original draft should be sufficient to support the initial establishment of the HISA program.

The Department supports the amendments in House Draft 1 to change the definition of "department" and to clarify that a list of invasive species for control and eradication would be adopted by administrative rule.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**Testimony by:**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 30, 2017  
3:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**S.B.776, S.D.2, H.D.1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

House Committee on Finance

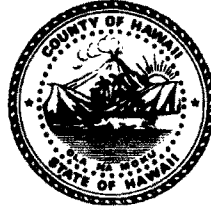
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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which expands the authority of the existing Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

The DOT finds its membership on this council useful in providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Harry Kim  
Mayor



Wil Okabe  
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow  
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i  
Office of the Mayor

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March 28, 2017

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members

**RE: SB 776, SD 2, HD 1  
Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration**

I do not have a specific position on SB 776, but would like to thank you and your committee for the focus you have put on invasive species this session.

The Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top-priority that deserves all our 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.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawaii County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including coffee berry borer beetle, little fire ants, coqui frogs, rapid ohia death and probably others. But all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." As a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own. We need as much assistance from you as you can offer.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim  
Mayor



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, March 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean  
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 776 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 776 SD2 HD1, which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, 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; and appropriates funds to implement the authority and relevant interagency invasive species projects.

The University of Hawai'i is a member of the interagency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and will remain a member under the restructuring proposed in SB 776 SD2 HD1. We support this restructuring and attachment to the Department of Agriculture, and believe that it will strengthen efforts to prevent and control invasive pests, plants, and plant diseases in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the effort to testify in support of SB 776 SD2 HD1.





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7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • [www.kauaiisc.org](http://www.kauaiisc.org)

March 29, 2017

Testimony of Bill Lucey – Kauai Invasive Species Committee

**Supporting** SB 776 SD2 HD1

House Committee on Finance

Chair: Rep. Sylvia Luke & Vice Chair: Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 3:00, Room 308

The Kauai Invasive Species committee strongly **supports** SB 776 SD2.HD1 which would Restructure the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) into the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority (HISA) as an attached agency to The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

As a coordinating body the HISA would have increased capacity to implement and track progress of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. As an attached agency to HDOA, many of the biosecurity mandates and operations within HDOA's authority would mesh with the various actions outlined in the biosecurity plan. Representation from both the current HISC members and new seats provided to industry, conservation and Native Hawaiian cultural practices will advance pragmatic problem solving.

We feel that this is an innovative change for the future health of Hawaii's land and people building on a collection of agencies that are increasingly effective at stopping costly invasions.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey  
Project Manager  
Kauai Invasive Species Committee  
University of Hawaii



**Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i**

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*

*Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu*



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Finance  
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i  
Hearing: Thursday, March 30, 2017 3 pm  
Room 308

Support for SB 776 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 776 SD 2 HD 1, which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, 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; appropriates funds to implement the authority and relevant interagency invasive species projects.

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 have a ways to go, and we appreciate this bill.

The proposed restructuring will also likely result in better coordination between the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, and more buy-in on the part of the Department of Agriculture and other state agencies.

Give our native Hawaiian species a chance. Please pass SB 776 SD 2 HD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



Invasive ants on wedge-tailed shearwater chick.

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: [info@conservehi.org](mailto:info@conservehi.org) | web: [www.conservehi.org](http://www.conservehi.org)

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President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague

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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





March 29, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER  
Chair

MARGARET WILLE  
SEAN SMITH  
Legislative Affairs Committee Co-Chairs

SUPPORT FOR SB776 SD1 HD1  
RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Committee on Finance  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Rep. Ty Cullen, Vice Chair  
Thursday, March 30th, 2017  
3:00 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 308

Support of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports SB 776 SD1 HD1 “Related to Invasive Species Program Administration.” This bill restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to become the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority. The Authority, housed in the Department of Agriculture, will be given more resources such funding, staff, and board members in order to fulfill the goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. **Passage of SB776 SD1 HD1 is one of DPH’s Legislative Priorities for this 2017 Legislative Session.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Tim Vandever* (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)  
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

/s/ *Margaret Wille* (margaretwille@mac.com)  
/s/ *Sean Smith* (simashang@yahoo.com)  
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 Honolulu, HI 96805 □ (808) 596-2980 □ www.hawaiidemocrats.org □ info@hawaiidemocrats.org



The Nature Conservancy  
Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel(808) 537-4508  
Fax(808) 545-2019  
nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting S.B. 776 SD2 HD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, March 30, 2017, 3:00PM, Room 308

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 776 SD2 HD1 to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, attached administratively to the Department of Agriculture.

The Legislative Reference Bureau recently released its update to the 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*. The 2015 update, *Can't See the Forest for the (Albizia) Trees: An Invasive Species Update*, can be found at: <http://lrbhawaii.org/reports/legrpts/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 recently completed a comprehensive biosecurity plan.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Thomas Gottlieb James Haynes III Sean Hehir Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy Matsui  
James Polk Jean Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Dustin Sellers Nathan Smith Peter Tomozawa



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

March 30, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 776, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Room 308  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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 776, SD2, HD1.**

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 776 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.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
Thursday, March 30, 2017 – 3:00 PM - Room 308  
**Agenda #2**

**RE: SB 776 SD2 HD1- Relating to Invasive Species Program  
Administration – In Support**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen and Members of the Committee:

**The Local Food Coalition supports SB 776 SD2 HD1**, which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council as the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the Department of Agriculture to coordinate implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

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. The State needs enhanced coordination of its invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. We support SB 776 SD2 HD1 as it will provide 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](mailto:llum@wik.com)

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:10 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** emmaharberwhite@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB776 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM\*

**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Emily White	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**Sent:** Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:34 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** katc31999@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB776 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM\*

**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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FIN-Jo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: kimcoco@kimcoco.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB776 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM\*



**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kim Coco Iwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**LATE**

The House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
March 30, 2017  
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 308  
State Capitol

**Testimony in support of SB 776 SD2 HD1**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 776 SD2 HD1, Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration.** The aim of this measure is to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) as an Authority administratively attached to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), and appropriate funds.

Agencies and non-government organizations have tried for decades to address individual invasive species and impacts, and the underlying issues that continue to place Hawai'i at risk, and there are many successful policies and programs that have been instituted through the efforts of leaders and partnerships. The creation of the Invasive Species Committees, the Watershed Partnerships, the Hawai'i Ant Lab, and the HISC itself are all great examples. The HISC in particular has been an amazing success, so why change it? The answer is because we are still not where we need to be with regard to biosecurity policies, programs, public participation, and funding, and we must continue to advocate for what is necessary to do the job. The Interagency Biosecurity Plan creates a solid framework that highlights the most important policy, infrastructure, and resource needs, and yet it will falter without a structure to drive change. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 776 SD2 HD1.

Aloha,  
Christy Martin, CGAPS



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 7:23 AM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: 808nateyuen@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB776 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/30/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: I strongly support SB776 SD2 HD1 which restructures the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs. It is important to prevent plant diseases, insect pests, and other damaging species from getting to Hawaii and becoming established in our islands. We have have seen rapid ohia death ravage the Big Island's ohia forests compromising the ability of the land to capture and retain water. We have seen coconut rhinoceros beetles kill coconuts trees iconic to Hawaii and fire ants render properties unlivable. Please appropriate the funds to implement the authority and improve the biosecurity of our islands. I urge you to pass this bill to safeguard our future.

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**LATE**

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:22 PM  
To: FINTestimony  
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for SB776 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM\*

**SB776**

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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*Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and serve as a model for integrated green growth*

### Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

#### Board of Directors

#### In Support of SB776 SD2 HD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration

#### House Committee on Finance

30 March 2017, 3:00 am, Room 308

**Deanna Spooner**

Pacific Island Climate  
Change Cooperative

**June Matsumoto**

Pacific Islands Institute

**Ka'eo Duarte**

Kamehameha Schools

**Matt Lynch**

University of Hawai'i

**Mark Fox**

The Nature Conservancy

**Mike Hamnett**

Hawai'i Energy Policy  
Forum

**Piia Aarma**

Pineapple Tweed Public  
Relations & Marketing

**Pono Shim**

O'ahu  
Economic  
Development Board

**Scott Enright**

Department of Agriculture

**Scott Seu**

Hawaiian Electric  
Company

**Ulalia Woodside**

The Nature Conservancy

**William J. Aila Jr.**

Department of Hawaiian  
Homelands

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB776 SD2 HD1** to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, providing new board seats for non-governmental stakeholders and providing the ability to hire staff to better coordinate interagency programs that implement the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threaten the health of Hawai'i's economy, ecosystems, agricultural production and people. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant, outbreak of dengue fever on Hawai'i Island and Rapid 'Ohia Death are a couple examples of the severe consequences that invasive species can have. Continued state leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated response to current and future threats.

While the Hawaii Invasive Species Council has been successful, restructuring as an attached authority to the Department of Agriculture would be an important step to elevate this critical issue for increased impact. The Department of Agriculture's broad mandates regarding invasive species and biosecurity make it an appropriate agency for this important statewide priority.

Hawai'i Green Growth partners agreed that biosecurity is an important priority to support implementation on Hawaii's *Aloha+ Challenge 2030* sustainability goals. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a joint leadership commitment launched by the State Legislature (SCR69),

Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners. This statewide framework outlines six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resource management, solid waste, smart sustainable communities, and green education and workforce. The Aloha+ Challenge has been recognized nationally and internationally as model that can be scaled to support the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

With leadership and support from the State Legislature, Hawai'i hosted the first U.S. held IUCN World Conservation Congress with over 10,000 global partners from 190 countries in 2016. **SB776 SD2 HD1** is an opportunity to continue important local action on sustainable development and resiliency. As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports **SB776 SD2 HD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.