

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
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 1, 2019
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1140
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

Senate Bill 1140 proposes to provide funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to increase personnel capacity, operating funds, and capital improvement funds for departmental efforts under the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department partners with other agencies on implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan and recognizes its duties in mitigating invasive species impacts to natural resources in Hawaii. The Department is also the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and operates an annual budgeting process through HISC to support research and interagency projects that fill gaps between agency programs, as described in SECTION 3. The Department supports increasing resources to these critical biosecurity efforts as part of the overall goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND

FEBRUARY 1, 2019
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 1140
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1140 which appropriates money to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to implement portions of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP). Specifically, the bill will be used to hire 10 additional DLNR staff to respond to invasive species, help fund the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to support research and interagency projects, provide funding for rapid ohia death response activities, and authorize issuance of general obligation bonds to fund capital improvement projects aimed at mitigating invasive species on Maui.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this measure. Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. The funding and bond authorization will allow DLNR to continue its invasive species mitigation efforts via implementation of the HIBP.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 1, 2019 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1140 – RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1140 relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports with amendments the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan was designed to address major issues including invasive species in our natural environment. The plan was well designed and fairly comprehensive. This bill seems to directly address PostTifs1.10 and possibly PostTifs1.8 of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. By addressing the plan, already approved by the state, we stand in support of the bill.

Research has shown that fencing is a primary way of controlling invasive vertebrate species. This bill follows the consensus of the best research in the area that pertains to the Hawai'i condition.

We support the intent of this bill and suggest that it be amended to indicate the specific components being addressed in the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan as this will provide justification to allow the state to track the components of the bill that are being funded.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 277, 922, 923, 924, 1140 and 1490 Relating to the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 1, 2019, 1:15PM, Room 229

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports the Department of Land and Natural Resources' operational and capital budget requests for:



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT (LNR172, 402, 407): Base general funding for forest management programs, plus \$5.583m in FY20 and \$4.992m FY21 in CIP funds for animal management fencing that provides long-term protection for watershed forests statewide.

INVASIVE SPECIES (LNR402): Base general funding, plus an additional \$1,000,000/year to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and 10 additional departmental positions to address pest threats to Hawai'i's economy, environment and quality of life, and an additional \$800,000/yr. to address the critical threat of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

LEGACY LAND PROTECTION (LNR101): Requested spending ceiling increase of \$2,364,905 to help protect priority coastal, agricultural, historic, cultural, forest, and recreational resources.

AQUATIC RESOURCES (LNR153, 401, 805): Base general funding and staff support to address the health and productivity of Hawai'i's marine resources, including an aquatic resources program manager and three aquatic biologist positions.

CONSERVATION ENFORCEMENT (LNR405): Funding for the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement to convert temporary positions to permanent to operate the successful community fisheries enforcement units on four islands.

These budget items contribute to the resilience, sustainability and continued health of our islands' environment, economy, and quality of life. Thank you for appreciating the critical importance of protecting our limited and exhaustible natural resources so that they will continue to support us with fresh water, productive fisheries and farmlands, cultural treasures, and a healthy lifestyle.



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCL)

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Senator Kaiali`i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 1, 2019
TIME: 1:15 p.m.
PLACE: Conference Room 229, State Capitol

RE: SB 1140 Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha mai kakou Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land:

The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities (OCCLP) of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i (DPH) hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 1140 relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.**

SB 1140 appropriates funds for portions of the Hawai'i interagency biosecurity plan to enhance protection of Hawai'i's natural resources, agriculture, human health, and way of life.

Agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State of our marine resources an ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua`a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, polices to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security an strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai`i Platform (2018), p. 9, ln. 5-16.*

DPH believes in the conservation and collaborative stewardship of our shared natural heritage: the public lands and waterways, the oceans, mountains and all that makes Hawai'i's great outdoors priceless. We need policies and investments that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters.

DPH will approach conservation of our public lands and waters in a way that reflects the diversity of our State, by actively engaging all people in the great outdoors and protecting natural landscapes and cultural sites that tell the story of Hawai'i's complex history. To help meet these goals, we will work to build a diverse workforce in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) that manage Hawai'i's public lands, waters, and cultural sites.

Democrats oppose efforts to undermine the effectiveness of the Endangered Species Act to protect threatened and endangered species.

Agricultural practices have a significant impact on our water, land, oceans, and climate. Therefore, we believe that in order to be effective in keeping our air and water clean and combating climate change, we must enlist farmers as partners in promoting conservation and stewardship *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 18, ln. 37-55.*

For the foregoing reasons, i.e., the need for polices to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and increased inspection to protect against invasive species and for policies that will keep Hawai'i's public lands public, strengthen protections for our natural and cultural resources, increase access to parks and public lands for all people, protect native species and wildlife, and harness the immense economic and social potential of our public lands and waters, OCCLP supports SB 1140 and urges its passage out of the Committee on Water and Land.

Mahalo nui loa

Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i

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The Senate
Committee on Water and Land
February 1, 2019
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 229
State Capitol

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB 1140

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 1140**, *Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources*. The aim of this measure is to provide funding for portions of the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The legislature recognizes the Biosecurity Plan as a guiding document for addressing invasive species at all levels to better protect Hawai‘i’s natural resources, agriculture, human health, and way of life.

Funding will support the creation of full-time invasive species technicians at DLNR-DOFAW and for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council’s to support research and partner projects to address invasive species issues. Funding and sufficient staffing continue to be a challenge in addressing invasive species issues especially once a species escapes and spreads into natural areas. Additional “boots on the ground” will help to quickly respond to incipient invasive species and continue management of species that threaten native ecosystems. Grants from the HISC support programs like the Invasive Species Committees and the Hawai‘i Ant Lab that are essential to keeping pests like Little Fire Ants, Miconia, and coqui frogs from spreading statewide.

Funding will also support the continued response to the fungal pathogens known as Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death, that are responsible for killing hundreds of thousands of ‘ōhi‘a trees on Hawai‘i Island and now Kaua‘i. ROD is a real threat that the legislature recognized early on and we are thankful for past appropriations that supported research, rapid reponse efforts and public outreach and communications. We need to continue these efforts especially with the new detection on Kaua‘i. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Chelsea Arnott
CGAPS