

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
ACTING 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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 685
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 685 would appropriate funds for positions at the Maui Branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to reduce the problem of invasive species in the county of Maui. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes invasive species as a major problem for the protection of natural resources, as well as for agricultural production, tourism, and human health. The Department notes that the administration request includes 10 positions for invasive species mitigation statewide at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife as a first step toward reaching a goal of 45 positions by 2027, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The administration request includes two positions for Maui and one position for Molokai. The administration request also includes capital improvement funds for the construction of a coqui frog containment barrier for the infestation in Maliko Gulch.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

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

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER & LAND

FEBRUARY 11, 2019
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 685
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kahele and Members of the Committees:

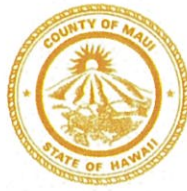
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 685, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions to control invasive species, such as miconia, in east Maui county. The Department supports the intent of this bill and defers to DLNR.

Funding for control of invasive species such as miconia is critical to ensure appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained. Staffing is a critical component of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan; however, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is only one of the many partnering agencies included in the Interagency Biosecurity Plan that are charged with protecting Hawaii. Each partnering agency has a critical role in ensuring that the action items in the plan can be implemented. The Department of Agriculture also plays a critical role in the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species throughout the State and including funding for Department of Agriculture staff would enable a more comprehensive implementation of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Michael P. Victorino
Mayor



Sananda K. Baz
Acting Managing Director

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

February 8, 2019

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

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Dear Senator Gabbard, Senator Kahele, and Committee Members:

Re: Hearing of February 11, 2019; Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **SB 685**, Relating to Invasive Species

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** for **SB 685**. This important measure would appropriate 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 threats from invasive plants and animals.

Invasive pests, and especially the weedy tree miconia, threaten Maui County residents' livelihoods, health, and safety. Additionally, invasive species have had significant damaging effects on Maui County's delicate ecosystem, businesses, and agriculture.

Miconia trees grow quickly and close together, shading out nearly all other forest plants with their large oval leaves. The plant's shallow root system also contributes to erosion and landslides, which are prevalent along portions of Hana Highway.

Hana Highway is a critical lifeline for the East Maui community and a popular tourist attraction. Both East Maui residents and visitors planning travel along the highway are negatively impacted by the plant's presence in the area.

February 8, 2019
Page 2

I urge you to support the funding request to support Maui County from the devastating effects of miconia and other invasive species before it's too late.

Mahalo for your consideration of **SB 685**.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sandy Baz", written in a cursive style.

SANDY BAZ
Acting Mayor
County of Maui

Council Chair
Kelly T. King

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Alice L. Lee
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Maria E. Zielinski

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

February 9, 2019

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

The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: ^{KG} Kelly T. King
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 11, 2019; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 685, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to provide funds to establish invasive species technician positions for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife in East Maui to control invasive species, like miconia, from negatively impacting the environment and economy.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. 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. The East Maui Watershed is not only a critical collector of water for the island of Maui, but it is also home to an array of native plants and creatures. Invasive species, like miconia, weaken and destroy our watershed, threatening both the water supply of the people of Maui and the home of rare plants, bugs, and birds.
2. In addition to miconia, other invasive species like Himalayan ginger and strawberry guava infest East Maui. More support is necessary to combat the threat invasive species present.

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

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting SB685 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2019, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation 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 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 SB685 that would provide an **additional \$500,000** to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to hire additional staff to address invasive pests in East Maui.

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.

We also hope that the funding and staffing proposed in this bill will continue to be additive. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

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. Beyond this bill's additive funding, we encourage the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Duke E. Ah Moo Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Richard A. Cooke III Ka'iulani de Silva Brian J. Doyle
Robert J. Dzielak Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui
Janet Montag Alicia Moy 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 Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 5:26:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

Again- the term "invasive species" is too broad and gives DLNR much too much power to interfere with daily community life.

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:34:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
and

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2019 at 2:45 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 685 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 685 relating to invasive species and 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. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

A single miconia plant can invade >2,400 acres of protected watershed in tropical area over time. One mature plant produce approximately 400 fruits and 80,000 seeds. Fruits are attractive to birds which spread the seeds over long distances. Seeds from one fruit can survive 32-48 years (serious weed seed bank problem). Miconia also has a shallow root system that facilitates soil erosion.

CTAHR former invasive species specialist, Dr. James Leary, has developed a novel and impactful herbicide ballistic technology with a selective herbicide to manage this highly invasive weed targeting on incipient populations of miconia that are colonizing remote sections of class 1 watersheds on Maui.

Skillful technicians are urgently needed to carry out this task in a timely manner before the class 1 watersheds on Maui is severely impacted.

A study by Dr. Leary showed that one new mature plant impacts an estimated 850 acres of forested watershed with an associated cost of \$66,000 to ameliorate.

A real life example of how damaging miconia can be in the tropical rainforest is that a quarter of the rainforest in Tahiti is now made up of miconia stands.

We support the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. In addition, we suggest that this bill be considered in the context of the other invasive species bills with particular emphasis on SB 871 and SB 523.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 10:44:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:



LATE

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

February 11, 2019

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 685
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director 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 685, 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.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Maui County. We respectfully request that all Counties receive funding to combat invasive species.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:21:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/8/2019 9:39:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Saumalu Mataafa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:13:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB685. Hawaii is called the endangered species capital of the world, due in large part to invasive species. We must take measures to limit the entry of non-native species to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

LATE

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 6:31:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-685

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:55:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't trust the DLNR's designations of which species are invasive.