

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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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

**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
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, April 12, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 145
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE IN THE COUNTY OF HAWAII TO
PRIORITIZE THE CONTROL OF HIGH-THREAT INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 145 requests that the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife prioritize the control of high-threat invasive species in the county of Hawaii. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the impact that invasive species have on Hawaii's natural resources and is committed to mitigating those impacts through work done by the Hawaii Island Branch of the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. The Department is also a major fiscal supporter of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, which works collaboratively with the Department and other entities to identify those invasive species on Hawaii Island that have both the highest impact on Hawaii's environment, agriculture, and health, as well as the highest chance of being contained and/or eradicated.

Eradication of invasive species in Hawaii is a difficult task, and typically the complete eradication of a species is only possible when that species is a relatively new introduction (i.e., its population size and distribution are limited). For species that are beyond our ability to eradicate, we must do a cost/benefit analysis that considers the costs of controlling a species in perpetuity, versus scaling back or suspending control activities until new technological advances provide more effective control methodologies.

On Hawaii Island, *Miconia* was aggressively controlled by the Big Island Invasive Species Committee and partners, including the Department, when control and eradication were

considered feasible. Over time, *Miconia* continued to spread on Hawaii Island due to the sheer size of the island, and insufficient funding to sustain an effort at the scope and scale necessary to contain the pest. Available resources for controlling *Miconia* decreased following the economic downturn in 2008, restricting control efforts and effectively putting eradication out of reach with existing tools. Shortly thereafter, the Big Island Invasive Species Committee removed *Miconia* from its target list due to limited resources and the rapid expansion of this species beyond our ability to manually control its spread. Manual control at current funding levels will not impede the spread of *Miconia* on Hawaii island.

Focus on *Miconia* control for Hawaii Island and Maui, where *Miconia* is also widespread, has shifted from mechanical control to the potential for biological control. This biocontrol process uses rigorous scientific testing to evaluate the natural control mechanisms of an invasive species from its native range, and to test their efficacy as potential tools to control that species in Hawaii. The evaluation, undertaken by regulatory entities including the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and the US Forest Service, ensures that there is negligible risk that the biocontrol agent will impact species in Hawaii other than the desired target. For *Miconia*, several potential biocontrol agents have been identified. The Department is working with HDOA and the US Forest Service on fulfilling the regulatory requirements to allow the use of these biocontrol agents in Hawaii. These agents represent the best and most cost-effective tool for controlling *Miconia* on Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SCR-145

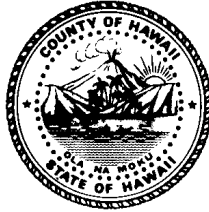
Submitted on: 4/11/2019 8:31:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
(808) 887-2069

Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 11, 2019

House Committee on Agriculture
Honorable Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Honorable Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of SCR 145**
Hearing Date/Time: April 12, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

Dear Representatives:

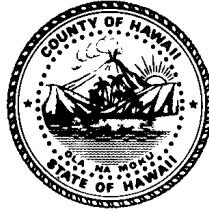
As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of SCR 145**. It is important that the control of all invasive species be made a priority within DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife. Invasive species continue to infiltrate the Island of Hawai'i, and it is critical that there be a continued focus to stop the spread of these invasive species, including the halt of new species and the continued eradication on the likes of miconia. Miconia has been the culprit for many erosions of land and landslides on Hawai'i Island but continued focus to eradicate .0can assist in its demise.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 10, 2019

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members:

RE: SCR 145 Relating to Control of High-Threat Invasive Species

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 145.

A year ago, the Council of Mayors 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.

SCR 145 would be another recognition by the Legislature of the importance of invasive species control, and perhaps serve as encouragement to the Administration to devote even more resources to the continuing threat that invasives pose.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Aha Moku Advisory Committee

Before the House Committee on Agriculture

Friday, April 12, 2019
9:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In SUPPORT OF SCR 145 (SSCR1789)
Relating to DLNR; Invasive Species**

SCR 145 (SSCR1789) encourages the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife in the County of Hawaii to prioritize the control of high-threat invasive species. **The Aha Moku Advisory Committee (AMAC) supports this measure.**

Hawaii is, and always has been, a special and beautiful paradise in which the environment and ecosystem of each moku is distinctly unique to that place. From the beginning of time, the Native Hawaiians have cared for and treasured their ecosystems and kept the balance of nature intact. However, since 1778, with the arrival of others to Hawaii, great changes in the ecosystems of each island have taken place due to the introduction of plants and animals who are not endemic to Hawaii. Sometimes by accident, and often by well-meaning people and scientists who believe they know best for Hawaii but do not understand the overall impact of one introduced species, whether plant or animal, can have on an entire ecosystem.

Native Hawaiians, through their generational knowledge of the natural and culture resources of their places have struggled over the years to maintain the natural balance of nature and sustain each environment. And, although they were joined by many different cultures who ended up making Hawaii their home, with no natural enemies, invasive species have flourished. We have lost too many precious endemic and indigenous species to either carelessness, greed, or gullibility.

To save what is left on Hawaii Island, we must take a stronger pro-active part in controlling invasive species, both on land and in the water.

We support this resolution and urge this committee to adopt SCR 145 (SSCR 1789).

Respectfully yours,

Piilani Kaawaloa, Po'o, Moku O Keawe
Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee
Phone: 808-896-4172
Email: Punatita7@yahoo.com

Kawehi Nguyen, Kona Moku
Hawaii State Aha Moku
Phone: 808-937-1714
Email: kknguyen@hawaii.edu

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 7:40:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Animal Advocates OPPOSES SCR 145.

We oppose giving carte blanche to DLNR to decide which animals are invasive without public hearings regarding a change in the existing law. Both BLNR and DoA have been skirting this issue for a long time. This needs to be decided in the process of amending HAR- with the entire legal process required by law.

Cats were on the invasive species list years ago. Through lots of push back and testimony, cats were taken off the list stating that **feral felines were the same species as the pet cat and only their lifestyle was different.** Now, Gov Ige, encouraged the governors of 15 states, at the Western Regional Governors Conference to put cats back on the invasive species list. And of course, DLNR will literally eradicate the cats by whatever means necessary. The killing must STOP. There are other ways to control wildlife population. Countries and island all over the world are doing it.

Alley Cat Allies and the Veterinary Medical Assoc has researched and proved that targeted spay and neuter works as the humane way to control animal population especially cats. According to local Sierra Club, native birds are decreasing due to loss of habitat and the disease carrying mosquito. Tree rats attack the birds nests too. So Sierra Club says they would rather see cats around than the rats. But people want to attack the cats as a solution. **IF DLNR AND GOV IGE really want to save the birds, they should attack the root cause problem.**

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 9:24:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose giving DLNR carte blanche authority over designating which animals are invasive and which should be prioritized.

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 6:24:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gillian Boss	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/9/2019 9:28:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 7:29:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pat Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose giving carte blanche to DLNR to decide which animals are invasive without public hearings regarding a change in the existing law. Both BLNR and DoA have been skirting this issue for a long time. This needs to be decided in the process of amending HAR- with the entire legal process required by law.

In the case of feral cats, please know that hundreds of individuals are involved in spaying and neutering programs to reduce cat populations, and it is working. Poisoning, shooting and otherwise killing animals is inhumane. As Mahatma Ghandi said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Mahalo,

Patricia Johnson

Volcano Village

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 3:50:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR145. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must do what we can to limit the entry of invasive species to Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

SCR-145

Submitted on: 4/12/2019 8:56:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments: