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GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE  
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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  
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**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on  
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
1:20 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 145/SENATE RESOLUTION 112  
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/Senate Resolution 112 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.

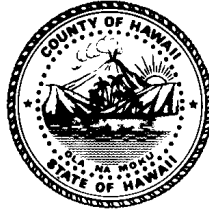
Eradication of invasive species in Hawaii is a difficult task, and typically the complete eradication of a species is only possible when that species is a relatively new introduction (i.e., its population size and distribution are limited). For species that are beyond our ability to eradicate, we must 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 these measures.

**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 25, 2019

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair  
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

**RE: SCR 145/SR 112 Relating to Invasive Species**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SCR 145 and SR 112.

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 and SR 112 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



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March 27, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**TESTIMONY ON SB SCR 145/SR 112**  
ENCOURAGING 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

Room 229  
1:20 PM

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

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 SCR 145 and SR 112**, which encourages the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, in the County of Hawaii branch to prioritize the control of high-threat invasive species.

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 Hawaii County.

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

**LATE**

**SCR-145**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 10:20:07 AM  
Testimony for WTL on 3/27/2019 1:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:



**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 Senate Committee on Water and Land

**LATE**

Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
1:20 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In SUPPORT OF SCR 145 and SR 112  
Relating to Invasive Species**

SCR 145 and SR 112 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 these resolutions and urge this committee to pass SCR 145 and SR 112.

Respectfully yours,

Piilani Kaawaloa, Po'o, Moku O Keawe  
Hawaii State Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
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