

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
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 House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

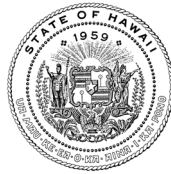
**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1770
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1770 proposes to establish an invasive species rapid response special fund to facilitate invasive species detection and control in situations where the Governor has declared an invasive species emergency. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department manages a variety of invasive species programs and is the administrative host of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). For both departmental programs and interagency projects supported by the HISC, project costs are assigned at the beginning of a fiscal year. There is no source of funding that specifically supports new emergency responses to invasive species incursions that happen after the start of the fiscal year. An invasive species rapid response fund would better enable the state to respond to threats at the time of first detection, when the likelihood of success is highest and the cost of eradication is lowest. Establishing such a fund is one of the key goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, described in border policy action item BorPol1.3. Appropriating money into this fund is described in border funding action item BorTifs1.4.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1770

January 29, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Room 312

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Department of Budget and Finance opposes House Bill (H.B.) No. 1770.

H.B. No. 1770 establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Special Fund (ISRRSF) and appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds in FY 21 for deposit into the special fund to mitigate the impacts of invasive species and immediately address newly detected threats. The ISRRSF would generate revenues through legislative appropriations and interest earnings and be administered by the Invasive Species Council within the Department of Land and Natural Resources. The Invasive Species Council would be afforded certain exemptions on special fund expenditures in the event of an invasive species emergency declaration. The bill does not contain an appropriation for the special fund.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the

general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to H.B. No. 1770, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**JANUARY 29, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1770
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1770, relating to invasive species. This bill creates a paid response mechanism for invasive species so that newly detected threats may be immediately addressed. Specifically, it establishes under Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 194 an invasive species rapid response special fund and appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the purposes of mitigating or eradicating newly detected invasive species threats in the State. The fund shall be administered by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and expenditures made by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. It establishes that when the Council determines that one or more newly detected invasive species pose a substantial threat to agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, or public health of the State or otherwise warrant immediate action, the Council shall submit a request to the governor to declare that there exists an invasive species emergency. It further establishes that upon declaration by the governor that there exists an invasive species emergency, the Council may act in response to the emergency and may make expenditures from the fund without legislative approval and without regard to chapters 36 37, 89, and 103D. It requires the Council to make an account of money expended



from the fund and include that information in its annual report to the legislature. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. Funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts.

However, the Department has concerns about the implementation of the bill. First, the definition of "newly detected invasive species" needs clarification regarding whether it only applies to newly detected species at the State level, or whether it also applies to new detections of invasive species at the island/county or even intra-island/county level. For example, coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) is only known from the City and County of Honolulu, so would this fund be accessible if the beetle was subsequently discovered in Maui County?

Second, a change is needed regarding which agencies can expend the funds. The current bill specifies that only the Department of Land and Natural Resources can expend the funds. This should be broadened so that any member agency of the Council can expend funds, because they all have roles in invasive species response and management.

Lastly, as per Hawai'i Revised Statute 127A-14(d), governor declared emergencies are limited to sixty (60) days. However, invasive species response activities typically exceed this time frame and often require several months to years for successful completion. The bill should specify whether funds can be expended after an emergency declaration has expired. If funds cannot be expended after the declaration has expired, then there will need to be a re-definition of the applicable timeframe for an invasive species emergency declaration that allows for access to the fund for the duration of the emergency project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
BONNIE KAHAKUI
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE**

P.O. Box 119
Honolulu, Hawaii 96810-0119
Tel: (808) 586-0554
email: state.procurement.office@hawaii.gov
<http://spo.hawaii.gov>
Twitter: [@hawaiispo](https://twitter.com/hawaiispo)

TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE
January 29, 2020, 8:30 a.m.

HOUSE BILL 1770
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Creagan and Vice-Chair DeCoite, and members of the committees, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 1770. The State Procurement Office's (SPO) comments are limited to page 2, SECTION 2, lines 7 through 17:

“(b) If the council determines that one or more newly detected invasive species pose a substantial threat to the agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, or public health of the State or otherwise warrant immediate action, the council shall submit a request to the governor to declare that there exists an invasive species emergency.

(c) Upon declaration by the governor pursuant to subsection (b) that there exists an invasive species emergency, the council may act in response to the emergency and may make expenditures from the fund without legislative approval and without regard to chapters 36, 37, 89, and 103D.”

Exemption from HRS Chapter 103D is unnecessary as the Governor already has the ability to suspend the requirement to follow HRS Chapter 103D pursuant to HRS 127A-12 (b)(8) which states:

“...Chapter 103D and sections 103-50, 103-53, 103-55, 105-1 to 105-10, and 464-4 shall not apply to any emergency management functions of the governor to the extent that the governor finds that the provisions, in whole or in part, impede or tend to impede the expeditious discharge of those functions, or that compliance therewith is impracticable due to existing conditions;...”

Also, exemption from HRS Chapter 103D is unnecessary as there are procedures for emergency procurements pursuant to HRS §103D-307.

Thank you.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
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

January 27, 2020

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

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

RE: HB 1770, Relating to Invasive Species

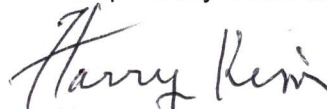
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1770.

Two years 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.

Creating a well-funded, rapid response mechanism to deal with invasives seems like an excellent way to attack infestations as they are identified. Prompt action will almost always have the best chance for success.

I hope you will approve HB 1770.

Respectfully Submitted,

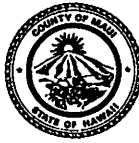

Harry Kim
MAYOR

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

January 27, 2020

TO: The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF JANUARY 29, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1770, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to create a paid response mechanism for invasive species so that newly detected threats may be immediately addressed.

This measure is in the Maui County's Legislative Package; therefore, I offer this testimony on behalf of the Council.

The Maui County Council **supports** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Invasive species such as coqui frogs, miconia, and little fire ants continue to threaten agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, public health, and the residential quality of life in Maui County, and therefore, must be prevented, controlled, or eliminated.
2. Rapid response to controlling and eradicating invasive species can be the difference between widespread outbreak and minimal incidents diseases such as rat lungworm, that affects the brain and spinal cord.
3. Establishing an invasive species rapid response special fund would ensure quick prevention, control, or elimination of a newly detected invasive species prior to the species becoming firmly established, saving money for taxpayers in the long term.

For the foregoing reasons, the Maui County Council **supports** this measure.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Riki Hokama
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

January 28, 2020

TO: Honorable Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and
Members of the Committee

FROM: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Councilmember, Upcountry Maui

DATE: January 29, 2020

SUBJECT: **HB 1770: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

I support HB1770, establishing an Invasive Species Rapid Response Special Fund with conditions requiring a method for declaring an emergency and that timely eradication will be a priority along with survey studies.

Global transportation and people's thirst for new foods and products have intensified Hawaii's risk of exposure to new invasive species. Living in Upcountry Maui, the heart of Maui's diversified agriculture, I constantly hear about some new bug or disease faced by our farmers and ranchers. Until solutions were found our ranching community was threatened by what looked like a pretty yellow flower – the fireweed, toxic to cattle. Since then they have the spittlebug, farmers experience damage from the painted stinkbug and the examples go on and on. The urgency to control these introductions does not seem to be there, yet they go on to create havoc to the industry that should be our source of sustainability.

Invasive Species organizations often speak about Miconia, Little Fire Ant, Coqui, Pampas grass and other invasives, but seldom do they

January 28, 2020

Page 2

address invasives that affect the agricultural industry. The intent is not to diminish the need to control the aforementioned invasives clarifying how priorities are determined on when and how funds are used. While surveys are important to understand a problem, what is the “rapid response” undertaken to eradicate the known invader. The corona virus that is spreading around the world speaks to how quickly spread can occur. We saw the speed of devastation caused by the rapid ohia death on the Big Island.

There is a need for an Invasive Species Rapid Response Program. Coordination and Organization will be critical to achieve the intent of the program. A scope of work should be articulated to ensure that the funds are used as intended.

Your support of this measure, including further clarity of how these funds would be used is appreciated.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my views on this matter.



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

January 28, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1770
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, 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.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1770, which establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund and establishes procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures.

Farmers and ranchers are constantly challenged with new invasive species. Often control measures are not known and time is needed to develop solutions. The new pest or disease could also be one that has lain incipient in our ecosystem, but due to changing climatic conditions, eating habits and lifestyles, suddenly becoming a problem. Hosts may already be widespread as with the Ratlung Worm Disease,

A few years ago, the avian flu was considered a significant threat and there was concern about wild bird populations. However, today, we see feral chickens running amock with no control in sight. Currently, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture has jurisdiction over plants and animals while the Hawaii Department of Health has the vector control branch. HISC is the body that is expected to form the collaboration between various agencies to achieve invasive species management.

HFB believes that invasive species management is not just about now but about the future. The significant feral bird population – Rose-ringed parakeet to name one is left to the industry to seek funding and assistance even as it could become a host to other problems. This illustrates the difficulty associated with identifying how and when these funds will be used. New invasive species may not always be readily obvious. This effort

will be enhanced with collaborations such as those between the Department of Agriculture to have advanced knowledge of what pests and diseases can be problematic.

A process is needed to ensure that the intent of a Rapid Response Program is realized.

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



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, January 29, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Manoa

HB 1770 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1770 relating to invasive species.

According to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, invasive species bring diseases, cause predation on native species, out-compete native species, alter habitat, and hybridize with native species. Hawai'i has some of the highest number of invasive species in the U.S.; and given that tourism is an important economic base for Hawai'i, invasive species have the potential to produce devastating effects on the state and its economy. Biosecurity, which includes invasive species control, is the major challenge that faces Hawai'i agriculture. The potential economic effect in agricultural and non-agricultural settings is estimated to be in the billions of dollars.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the competent way to address invasive species is called Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR). By definition this is “a coordinated set of actions to find and eradicate potential invasive species in a specific location before they spread and cause harm”. An example of this can be seen with the past and recent history of little fire ants. They are well established on Hawai'i Island, but not yet on other islands, although they are invading other islands. Upon detection, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture engages in rapid response. To date, these actions have been able to maintain a level of control to where little fire ants are not yet established.

A rapid response to invasive species is also consistent with the best management practice known as Integrated Pest Management (IPM). According to the Environmental Protection Agency, IPM “is an effective and environmentally sensitive approach to pest management...that can be applied to both agricultural and non-agricultural settings”. Its components are: (1) Set an Action Threshold, (2) Monitor and Identify Pests, (3)

Prevention, and (4) Control. It is not always possible to completely eradicate an invasive species, therefore one sets a threshold below which one attempts to maintain the population. For the Control component of IPM, the less risky control measures are attempted first. If the level of success does not decrease the problem below the action threshold, then additional control measures are applied. Combining concepts of EDRR and IPM define a short and long-term strategy that can maintain and improve Hawai'i's ecosystems and economy.

The Hawai'i legislature via HB 1770 is using concepts of EDRR by defining a rapid response approach to invasive species control. This bill is well-conceived and has a mechanism for funding. At the same time, it must be understood that the legislature cannot tie the hands of state agencies to apply concepts of EDRR and IPM by excessively limiting the tools that are necessary to combat invasive species. For example, bills that target the use of pesticides MUST be seriously considered. They must be based on the best known, and accepted, science, rather than on the desire of activist groups and pseudo-science. Without seriously considering companion legislation, a rapid response bill will not accomplish its goal.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1770; and look forward to it becoming law and protecting our native ecosystems, our people and our economy.



Maui County

January 29, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB1770: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 312
8:30 am

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Members of the Committee:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. We are a County Chapter of the Hawaii Farm Bureau, representing 180 farm families and organizations on the island. Our mission seeks to protect and increase the viability of farms and ranches while ensuring the social and environmental wellbeing of the island.

MCFB provides comments on the concept of funding an Invasive Species Rapid Response Program.

A decade ago, the Little Fire Ant was found in Waihee. It was big news on Maui as it has been the intent to keep out these invasives that have become established in other locations. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture personnel jumped into action and within a month had not just surveyed the extent of the infestation but also worked with the landowner on eradication measures. And, they were successful.

<http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/blog/news-releases/news-release-nr09-13-october-15-2009/>

Hawaii has a history of being able to address invasive species. It takes collaboration. No entity can do it alone. You need those that have the technical knowledge to identify what is or can be a big problem and those

that have pragmatic solutions. Surveys are important but they need to occur concurrently with the eradication efforts while the population is limited or can be contained.

The scope of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, includes a rapid response program. (HRS 194-2(3)) What measures are already in place at the Council and how will this funding supplement the capacity. We see many new insects and diseases affecting agriculture. Will those have any priority?

The Council is tasked with determining whether a new invasive poses a substantial threat to warrant immediate action. How is this analysis conducted? There are obvious threats such as the Brown Tree Snake, however, many agricultural threats may not be well known. A systematic and timely process is needed to ensure that the threats from new invasives is reduced. Changing climatic conditions means Hawaii is at further risk to new pests and diseases never seen before. The concept of this Program is good but as it is said, the devil is in the details to ensure that the intent of the Program is fulfilled.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter.

HB1770: Invasive Species Rapid Response Fund. SUPPORT



The State of Hawaii has a substantial and ever-growing responsibility to protect our islands from invasive species. This bill will establish a Rapid Response Fund-- money set aside to take swift action if a new invasive pest, such as the Red Imported Fire Ant, is detected in Hawaii. This fund is basic common sense. That is why the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, the island Invasive Species Committees, a long list of environmental, farming, and business NGOs, and each of our County Councils and Mayors have asked our legislature to establish this fund year after year!

What is Rapid Response? It is a systematic effort to eradicate a new high-risk invasive species while the infestation is still localized. It's our second line of defense. Agencies respond once an organism has been detected on-island and the likely impact of the pest and the feasibility of various response options have been assessed. The goal is to get on it quickly enough that the new pest can be eradicated—removed from the islands forever. To be effective, Rapid Response needs to happen fast—much faster than the state budget cycle.

When we miss the narrow window of opportunity to respond, the invasive species spreads to forests, farms, and nurseries, to new islands, and becomes impossible to eradicate. Instead of investing a modest amount in a Rapid Response Fund, our state agencies, farm businesses, and private citizens are stuck with the cost of managing another harmful pest or disease...forever.

As the manager of a multi-agency working group on invasive species, I get asked “Why didn't the state DO SOMETHING about [coqui frogs, little fire ants, miconia, semi-slugs...] when they first arrived?” Sometimes, there is little we can do. Often, however, there is just no immediately available funding.

The Queensland Longhorn Beetle is an unfortunate example. QLB is a close relative of the Asian Longhorn Beetle, which is devastating forests on the continental US. A single adult QLB was detected on Hawaii Island in 2009, and later found killing a **breadfruit** tree, a tree of cultural and economic importance. That was the opportunity to act! However, due to lack of funding, the position responsible for following up was empty, and follow up surveys never happened. We didn't find out it also kills **citrus, kukui, and cacao** until 2018, after the beetle had already spread across much of Puna. The research into how to control the pest didn't get started. The risk to native forests has never been assessed. No economic impact assessment has been conducted, making it difficult to attract federal research funds. There are no systematic surveys on Hawaii or the other islands and no quarantine is in place. All of these are components of an effective response plan and they all *require new funding*. Without these actions, the pest will continue to spread, and all costs will fall on our food producers and residents, putting our state's food self-sufficiency goals at risk.

In contrast, when Axis Deer were illegally introduced to Hawaii Island in 2009, funding was made available-fast. Free, court-ordered helicopter time got us off to a great start. We were able to hire professional hunters and buy high-tech imaging gear. We were told it was impossible, but a significant investment in Rapid Response made it a success. All told, the state spent less than 50 cents per acre to protect the entire island from a new threat predicted to cost farmers millions each year.

Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated!



HB-1770

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 9:51:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/29/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Shriner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



MAUI
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

LATE

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1770 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha, my name is Pamela Tumpap and I am the President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce, with approximately 650 members. I am writing share our strong support of HB1770.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB1770 to establish the invasive species rapid response special fund. Agriculture is extremely important to our community and state and the introduction and spread of invasive species continues to be a growing problem. With this bill, appropriate funding would be available to quickly address new invasive species before they take hold and spread and expedite the process.

Often these issues begin on the Big Island and then through the importation of plants to neighbor islands, invasive species are spread. We receive emails from the Department of Agriculture and were alerted to the new longhorn beetle. As a state, we now need to look at the longhorn beetle that affects ulu, avocado, cacao, citrus, moringa, kukui and more. Many of our members and Maui farmers are growing these products, so this is very concerning and it would be helpful to have the rapid response special fund established to address this new issue. Further, if we had this earlier, little fire ants may not have spread to Maui, Oahu and other areas.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this matter and ask that this bill be passed.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.