

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LT. GOVERNOR  
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES  
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN  
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 9:00AM IN CR 325

**HB 2015 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

February 3, 2020

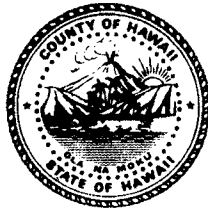
Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Todd, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2015. This bill establishes a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians. The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

Gorse is a highly invasive thorny shrub that creates impenetrable thickets which can be over 12 feet tall. DHHL Aina Mauna lands contain Hawaii's largest infestation of gorse, covering over 10,000 acres which prohibits homesteading and other land uses. The ecology and characteristics of this invasive species, which include abundant and early seed production, is easily spread and an over 30-year seedbank life, make containment, removal and long-term control of gorse very difficult and costly. The importance of eliminating this plant cannot be overstated. DHHL spends a great amount of time, effort and resources to control gorse annually and continues to look for the most feasible, efficient and effective long term solution to the gorse infestation on the Aina Mauna lands of Humuula and Piihonua. Any assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

**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

February 3, 2020

Representative Ryan I. Yamane, Chair  
Representative Chris Todd, Vice Chair  
Committee on Water, Land, & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Legislature

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Todd, and Committee members:

**RE: HB 2015 Relating to Invasive Species**

HB 2015 is a valuable bill, as the control of this invasive species is very important, not only to the environment on the upper slopes of Mauna kea, but also to prevent gorse's spread to the lower slopes during rain events.

I would suggest that the development of a pilot project include consultation with the Big Island and Hawai'i Invasive Species Councils, DLNR, HDOA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Hawaii specialists, to provide input and guidance to avoid unintended consequences of further spreading the plant, plant parts, or seeds during removal and repurposing of the gorse. I would also suggest that the Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Commission be invited to consult, since that Commission has long expressed concern about the spread of gorse and the fire hazard it represents.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Harry Kim  
MAYOR

**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/2/2020 6:21:44 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Ching, MD, MPH	American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawaii Chapter	Support	No

Comments:

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter is in support of HB 2105. This bill would permit collective mediation between physicians and insurers.

HB 2015 would improve communication between insurers and independent private physicians who are currently unable to advocate for practice and policy changes as a group. This bill allows for collective discussion that may be used to improve such procedures as clinical practice guidelines, referral procedures, coverage criteria, and liability issues. This bill would not affect patient access as it would not permit doctors to strike or boycott.

Our chapter sees this bill as an important step in providing a voice to physicians in private and small group practices in advocating for patient care with insurance companies. Please support HB 2105.

Respectfully,

Michael S.L. Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP

**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 10:41:52 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Kahikina	Association of Hawaiians for Hawaiian Lands (AHHL)	Support	No

Comments:

Michael Kahikina, native Hawaiian U. S. Air Force veteran from Nanakuli, former State House of Representative, former Hawaiian Homes Commissioner, and Oahu Chair for the Association of Hawaiians for Hawaiian Home Lands (AHHL), testify in support this bill directing DHHL to rid of the problem left by years of the Trust lands mismanagement if non-beneficiaries or non-Hawaiians use of the Trust lands.

i would go further in requiring the DHHL to comply with the intentions of the HHCA in working with the beneficiaries or beneficiary-driven initiatives that can be turned into an economic reality! I defer to the former Hawaiian Homes Commissioner Wally Ishibashi from Hilo and active with the Mauna Kea.

Please this is a very important issue that needs your support. Mahalo and peace be within you.

Mike Kahikina

# Pana'ewa Hawaiian Home Lands Community Association

P.O. Box 4788 ♦ Hilo, Hi 96720 ♦ Telephone: 808-938-5427 ♦ Email: phhlca@aol.com

January 03, 2020

RE: HB 2015 – Related to Invasive Species

Aloha Legislators,

As President of PHHLCA we support this measure, along with its inhabitants of Pana'ewa, and we the beneficiaries to the Aina Mauna Legacy Program, we concur to the removal, harvesting, and product development of the invasive weed Gorse. We believe this invasive weed has taken too much of our landscape on the mauna therefore we welcome this funding intervention by this legislation to act upon its evasive weed upon our pristine lands

Gorse has had its roots on the Mauna since the early 1900's by way of cattle husbandry to leased lands for grazing carrying the weed-seeds, hence the proliferation of this unwanted plant with no use to land and/or animal however the extraction from this shrub provides a paltry use like very little medical conventions and/or selective renewable resource resembling animal feed.

We believe this measure will start to stop the proliferation of this weed on the Mauna, furthermore we believe the use in renewable weed energy could be beneficial to native Hawaiians mercantile production. It's a long time coming for such actions by this legislation to provide opportunities to native Hawaiians and its assigned agency.

We the beneficiaries support this measure to carry-out its mission of Removal, Harvesting, and Product Development of such Invasive Species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 2015

Milton Kalai  
President PHHLCA

*"To establish a viable & strong Hawaiian community through education & respect for our cultural heritage and stewardship of the aina & its people"*

**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 4:37:46 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Pomai Freitas	Hui Ho'olako for Hawaiian initiatives	Support	No

Comments:

Hui Ho'olako supports bill HB2015. Gorse has been and will continue to be a problem on Mauna Kea for years now. With no end in site and it's continuous growth it has been far to long without support with this issue. This Bill will put the dhhl in a position to start getting rid of this issue along with having a viable product at the same time.

Aloha,

Pomai Freitas

Hui Ho'olako for Hawaiian initiatives

**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 12:01:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

BIISC supports this measure. Several industrial uses for gorse have been tested on island and demonstrated to conservation partners and ranch managers. We believe there is strong potential to substantially reduce the core infestation of gorse on Mauna Kea to make these lands usable for agriculture again and to utilize the plant material as an agricultural input, among other uses. Demonstrations showed that possible products including feed pellets and biochar will not create a risk of spreading gorse to new areas. It is also apparent that other invasive species could be used as feed stocks in similar ways as the gorse population becomes depleted. Without a massive effort, gorse will continue to eat up available land and invade native forests, increasing the risk of severe wildfire while eroding our natural resources. As long as the plan is to convert lands from gorse to productive agriculture, and not maintain gorse plantations in perpetuity, we support this effort to capitalize on the readily available materials found in invasive plants.

**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/1/2020 7:07:41 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members, As someone who has worked to protect the māmane and naio forests of Humu'ula, I have seen the impacts of gorse on this unique native habitat. HB2015 will aid to rid our mauna of this invasive plant. Please pass HB2015.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.



**HB-2015**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:46:51 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/5/2020 9:00:00 AM

**LATE**

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mapuana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB2015. This bill will provide a native Hawaiian the opportunity to provide the needed research to see if an invasive introduction on Hawaiian Homelands a chance to use its by product/s for a possible business opportunity.

Mahalo,

W. Mapuana Waipa