

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, February 13, 2020
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2265 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.

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

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 ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2265

February 13, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Room 325

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Department of Budget and Finance offers comments on House Bill (H.B.) No. 2265.

H.B. No. 2265 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 regard to H.B. No. 2265, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 13, 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 Mānoa

HB 2265 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 2265.

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 2265 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 2265; and look forward to it becoming law and protecting our native ecosystems, our people and our economy.

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

LATE

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 13, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 2265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2265, relating to invasive species. The measure establishes an invasive species rapid response special fund for rapid response to mitigate or eradicate newly detected invasive species threats in the State, and deposits funds from the General Fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 into the fund. The fund is administered by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and expenditures are made by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). Upon Council determination that one or more newly detected invasive species poses a substantial threat to agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, or public health of the State or otherwise warrant immediate action, the Council requests the governor to declare that an invasive species emergency exists. Upon issuance of the invasive species emergency declaration, the Council may respond to the emergency and expend funds without legislative approval and without regard to chapters 36, 37, 89, and 103D. The Council must account for expenditures 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. Adequate funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy can be implemented and maintained in a timely manner. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan provides the framework for these response 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, clarification is needed regarding which agencies can expend the funds. On page 2 lines 5-7 the Council is given the authority to expend the money, but on page 3 lines 5-6 DLNR is given authority to expend the funds. As a suggestion, lines 5-6 on page 3 could be amended to "The sum shall be appropriated to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and expended by the Council for the purposes of this act."

Lastly, the parameters of an invasive species emergency declaration are in need of definition. Currently, 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.

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 10, 2020

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2265 Relating to Invasive Species

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 2265

Two or more years ago, the Council of Mayors identified invasive species as a top-priority issue that deserves your attention. Our best efforts at the County level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that we work together with you in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems.

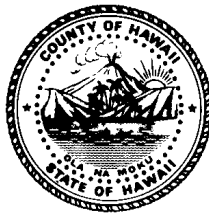
Creating a well-funded, rapid response mechanism to deal with invasives seems like an excellent way to attack infestations as they are identified. Prompt action will almost always have the best chance for success.

I hope you will approve HB 2265.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

REBECCA VILLEGAS
Council Member
District 7, Central Kona



PHONE: (808) 323-4267
FAX: (808) 323-4786
EMAIL: Rebecca.villegas@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL

*West Hawai‘i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai‘i 96740*

February 11, 2020

TESTIMONY OF REBECCA VILLEGAS
COUNCIL MEMBER, HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL
ON HB 2265, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 13, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee:

I thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 2265, relating to invasive species. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Hawai‘i County Council.

The purpose of this measure is to create a paid response mechanism for invasive species so that newly detected threats may be immediately addressed. Being able to respond quickly to new threats often prevents the species from becoming firmly established. A prime example is the coqui frog epidemic. State agencies lack the resources and response mechanisms to deal with newly identified threats and may be missing prime opportunities to eliminate them. Delays allow invasive species to become established and make mitigation efforts more protracted and expensive. The State of Hawai‘i has a special environment and we are fortunate that it is almost pristine. We have no natural protections to invasive species, and many threaten our environment habitats for our own indigenous species.

For the reasons stated above I urge the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection to support this measure as well. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 323-4267.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Villegas'.

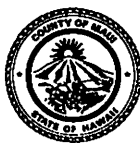
Rebecca Villegas
Council Member, Hawai‘i County Council

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

February 12, 2020

TO: The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 2265, 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.

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. 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 make the difference in preventing the widespread outbreak of diseases.
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, I **support** this measure.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Nicole E. Lowen, Chair;
The Honorable Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection,

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2265 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 support of HB2265.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB2265 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
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.



**HB2265: Invasive Species Rapid Response Fund.
SUPPORT**

**Hearing before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, February 13, 2020 Conference Room 325**

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. It will save taxpayers and the state considerable costs in the long run, as quickly eradicating a pest is far more cost effective than managing it in perpetuity. 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.

Rapid Response 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 when the bad guys slip through our border security. Agencies respond once an organism has been detected on-island and the 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 am often 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, 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. 500 hours of 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 the island-wide eradication a success—there are no Axis Deer on Hawaii Island. 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!



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 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2265
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice-Chair Wildberger, 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 1,800 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 HB 2265, 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.

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 8:43:42 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole K Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 3:10:02 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Bennett	Invasive Species Committee of Paauilo Mauka Kalopa Community Assn.	Support	No

Comments:

Our communities (Pa'auilo Mauka and Kalopa) on the Big Island are beset by several invasives which are putting at risk our health, our ranching and farming economies and our Hawaiian heritage. Often our needs for support in fighting invasive species, while critical (rat lungworm, little fire ants, rapid 'Ohi'a death, insects attacking pastures and orchards) cannot be met in time to save our communities andn their residents from harm.

Funding for rapid response to pests, especially emerging situations in which an invasive can be controlled or eliminated before it becomes established or before it can do harm to people and animals, would save hundreds of thousands of dollars in healthcare costs, keep our ranching and farming economies viable and protect our quality of life. Please pass HB 2265. Ruth Bennett, PMKCA Invasive Species Committee.

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/10/2020 7:09:00 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karl Magnacca	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a scientist and naturalist, I strongly support this bill and creation of an invasive species response fund. In the 25 years I have worked in Hawaii, I have seen extensive degradation of our native and agricultural ecosystems, largely due to alien species that have arrived recently such as coffee berry borer, little fire ant, rapid ohia death, naio thrips, and now the Queensland longhorn beetle. Given the number of simultaneous invasive species emergencies we face at all times, this is the bare minimum that should be done; we should be doing far more. They threaten both Hawaii's natural and cultural heritage, and its current and future economic prosperity. Every dollar spent on prevention and eradication repays itself many times over in reduced damage, even if the latter is less quantifiable in a budget than the former.

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 9:43:53 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Strauss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, we need more biosecurity to protect our agricultural, endemic/native, and cultural resources. This is an absolute necessity.

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/11/2020 2:45:10 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franny Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a resident of Puna on the Big Island and a member of the conservation community, I strongly support this bill. Currently our island is under threat from two new pests, the Queensland Longhorn Beetle and the Two-lined Spittlebug. Working with the researchers and agency folk who are trying to act on these pests, it is easy to see how response efforts are hampered without the immediacy of dedicated funding. Without funding to purchase traps and test various lures, scientists are borrowing from other projects and funding is scratched together from disparate sources. Staff are borrowed from other projects, and people with already full plates struggle to add in the extra work that is needed to learn more about the pest and track it, observe it to learn more, while scrambling to respond to new understandings in real time. Outreach efforts are done primarily through social media and the hope that the press will take notice of alerts and releases. Rather than being able to bring in experts who specialize in that particular type of pest, we are all searching our networks to find someone who can provide advice and guidance. It is heartening to work with groups of folks who are earnestly and determinedly trying to respond to a sudden threat, but I cannot help but think that a proper funding from the first confirmed identification of a pest would allow us to respond much more quickly, adeptly, and in the long run, efficiently (leading to extensive cost savings down the road).

I urge you, please support this bill!

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 6:37:38 AM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrick Conant	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Representative Lowen, Chair, Representative Wildberger, Vice Chair and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection,

I very much support HB 2265. I retired six years ago after spending a 35 year career in invasive species mitigation and control. I was an agricultural Entomologist working on crop and cattle rangeland pests. I have seen many very destructive pests get established during my time on the job. If we do not decrease the numbers of new pests getting established, it will become impossible to grow susceptible crops profitably. A good example right now is the new longhorn beetle attacking cacao trees in East Hawaii.

Sometimes when you find the first specimen of a pest, it is already too late. Other times, quick action can stop it or contain it while research on control methods is started. Weeds are often easier to stop than insects that fly! But if you don't try, you never know if you could have stopped it. Please support HB 2265!

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 2:03:01 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roseann Michaud	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support a rapid response fund to deal with invasive species. Our islands are home to unique species that should be protected!

HB-2265

Submitted on: 2/12/2020 3:19:08 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Chimera	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature,

As a resident of Honokaa, Hawaii, I am writing in support of HB2265, and encourage you to vote for the creation of the Invasive species rapid response special fund. Over the years, I have become increasingly alarmed by reports of new invasive species in the islands, from the Little Fire Ant, Rapid Ohia Death, the semi-slug that transmits rat lungworm disease, to the Queensland Longhorn Beetle that threatens our important cultural and food trees.

The ability to respond quickly to new invasive species is critically important in mitigating their harmful effects while still in the early stages of invasion. Any hopes of eradicating a harmful invasive species also depend on a rapid and concerted response by management agencies and personnel. Such early efforts will not only protect agriculture, the natural environment, and the health of our island residents, but will also save taxpayers money over the long run by addressing problems while they are still small and manageable.

If history teaches us anything, it's that new invasive species will unfortunately get to our islands. An invasive species rapid response fund, much like the Federal Emergency Management Agency funds, will provide the resources, and flexibility needed to address the problems sooner rather than later.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chuck Chimera

45619 Plumeria Street

Honokaa, HI 96727