

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FEBRUARY 20, 2020
10:35 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2082 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CONTROL**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

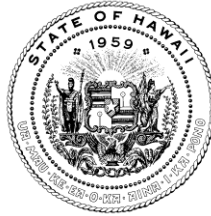
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2082 SD1, relating to invasive plant species control. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to be expended by the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources to develop or identify a substitute for invasive plant species. The Department supports the intent of this measure.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture, environment, and economy. Funding for research on invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be developed which mitigate the negative impacts on the State's agriculture, environment, and economy. This measure seeks to develop non-invasive plant varieties which can substitute for existing invasive species in landscaping, which would in turn be beneficial by decreasing the number of invasive plants in the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 20, 2020
10:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2082, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CONTROL**

Senate Bill 2082. Senate Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii to develop techniques to produce seedless plants for use in the ornamental plant industry. **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 recognizes the potential for imported ornamental plants to be invasive or to be associated with invasive species. The idea to develop sterile versions of invasive plant species could address the former issue, and if these sterile plants are produced in Hawaii it could help with the latter issue as well. The Department is a partner in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP), which encourages import replacement as one method to reduce the risk of introducing invasive species (HIBP action items PrePro2.2, PreTifs2.4).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 10:35 a.m.

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

SB 2082 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES CONTROL

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2082 SD1. The bill competently outlines the challenges that Hawai'i faces bringing in invasive species as ornamentals. The purpose of this bill is to fund development of infertile ornamental plants, in order to support the ornamental industry with new materials, while protecting the environment from invasive species.

Seedless or infertile plants can be developed from fertile plants by (1) selecting or breeding for double flowers, (2) induced mutagenesis, (3) wide hybridization, and (4) development of triploids. The newest potential for creating sterile plants comes from transgenic modification techniques.

The College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has produced such plants in the past and is active in doing so today. CTAHR's expert is Dr. Kenneth Leonhardt who is active in developing new sterile polyploids (more than one set of chromosomes), which are often sterile/infertile. The major technical bottleneck in identifying which offshoots are infertile is that it requires screening of many individuals, which requires technical staff.

If the desire of the legislature is to have sterile/infertile ornamental plants, then one strategy that would have an immediate impact is to fund the propagation and introduction of the species that Dr. Leonhardt has already converted to sterile forms. Due to lack of funds, he has not been able to take them to the introduction phase. Dr. Leonhardt's confirmed sterile plants and unconfirmed ones may be found in the listing at the end of this testimony.

A budget for one year to work on the introduction and to conduct evaluation work on the potential species is estimated to be \$97,000, which includes labor and supplies.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the bill. We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our BOR Approved Budget.

<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Sterile Clones</u>
Albizia saman	monkey pod tree (4N)	2
Cassia bakeriana	pink shower tree	4
Cassia fistula	yellow shower tree	4
Cassia javanica	pink and white shower tree	6
Cassia hybrids	no common name	20 to 30
Delonix regia	royal poinciana	1
Lagerstroemia hybrid	cape myrtle	3
Schefflera actinophylla	octopus tree	4
Spathodea campanulata	African tulip tree, orange	1
	African tulip tree, yellow	a few

<u>Sterility Unconfirmed</u>	<u>Common Name</u>	<u>Polyploid individuals</u>
Albizia saman	monkey pod tree (3N)	11
Bauhinia monandra	pink orchid tree	5
Bauhinia variegata alba	white orchid tree	1
Calophyllum inophyllum	kamani	2
Cenna leptophylla	no common name	6
Clusia rosea	autograph tree	2
Erythrina crista-galli	coral tree	6
Heritiera littoralis	mirror tree	6
Pachira aquatica	Malabar chestnut	3
Thespesia populnea	milo	2

SB-2082-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 6:01:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2082-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2020 1:05:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carmie Spellman	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators:

My name is Carmie Spellman, I live on the West Side in Lahaina, Maui. I don not support thie SB2082 SD1. 1. NO Genetic mofidication of these Seedless plants purposed by the University of Hawaii. " Because "Seedless plants are not common, but they **do exist naturally or **can** be manipulated by **plant** breeders without using **genetic** engineering techniques. No current **seedless plants** are **genetically modified** organisms (GMOs).Jan 3, 2019" Make sure this is NOT another Mongoose Scenario. Exotic Plants that are invasive should start being phased out despite what the vendors want because it is pono! It sounds like just passing the buck but I see this as being highly dangerous. That is if you want to help the Islands. Not by creating another form of invasive plant matter that would be potentially even a worst nightmare. A huge question is how long has this study be going on and how many trials? Do have some plots already expermented on? Please use some oversight this is too dangeorus. I have say I do not support it just saying.....**

Carmie Spellman, West Maui

SB-2082-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2020 5:29:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/20/2020 10:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Living in the midst of coqui frogs and little fire ants I support this bill.... Too bad its too late for me..

Lorn DOuglas