

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 Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 7, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2367
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 2367 proposes to add 5 permanent positions the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for the detection and management of invasive species in east Maui. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Invasive species are a primary threat in DOFAW's management of natural resources in Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserves, and Wildlife Sanctuaries. HIBP postborder funding action PostTifs1.10 sets a goal of adding 45 biosecurity positions statewide by 2027 to address this gap. Similar positions requested in 2018 and 2019 were not approved, making it more challenging to meet the goals of the Biosecurity Plan by 2027. The positions described in SECTION 2 of this measure would provide substantial progress toward addressing this action in the Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND ON WATER AND LAND**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2367
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kahele, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2367, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Maui for five permanent full-time equivalent (5.0 FTE) invasive species technician positions on Maui to control invasive species, like miconia, from negatively impacting the environment and economy. The Department supports the intent of this measure.

Funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented in a timely manner and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment, agriculture, and economy of the State. The Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts, and staffing is a critical component of the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

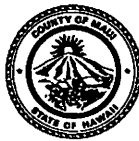


Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

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

February 5, 2020

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
The Honorable Kaiiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2367, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to provide funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Maui Branch, for invasive species technician positions in East Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

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 continue to have severe, negative impacts that 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. The invasive miconia is estimated to affect approximately 37,000 acres throughout East Maui, and poses a significant and growing threat to this area.
3. This measure would support the efforts of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to combat miconia, and other invasive plants and animals, in an area of unique environmental concern for Maui County.

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



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 7, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2367
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 224
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, 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 SB 2367, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Maui branch, for invasive species technician positions in east Maui to address invasive plants and animals.

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. The HISC currently estimates that those costs are now \$38 million on top of the current funding for biosecurity.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Maui County. We respectfully request that all Counties receive funding to combat invasive species.

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



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENTAE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2020 AT 1:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Environment,

To The Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Water & Land,

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2367 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 SB2637.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports SB2637 to appropriate funds for invasive species technician positions in East Maui. Agriculture is extremely important to our community and state and the introduction and spread of invasive species continues to be a growing problem for ag and negatively affects resident quality of life. Often these issues begin elsewhere and then through the importation of plants to neighbor islands, invasive species are spread. Having additional technicians in East Maui would be valuable to address these issues early. As invasive species put agriculture in danger and impact resident quality of life, we support this bill.

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.

SB-2367

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:45:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian conservationist, I support SB2367. This bill will protect Maui Island from invasive species and funds critical positions to inspect cargo and air passengers. Please pass SB2367.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.