

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
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, January 29, 2020
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2622
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 2622 proposes to add five 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 the county of Hawaii. **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. The Hawaii Biosecurity Plan post-border 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
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

**JANUARY 29, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2622
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2622, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions to control invasive species in Hawai'i County. The Department supports this measure.

Funding for control of invasive species, such as miconia, 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, and staffing is a critical component of the plan.

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

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January 27, 2020

Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

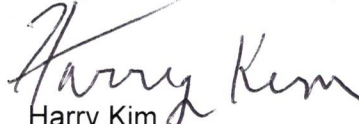
RE: SB 2622, Relating to Invasive Species

In the past three years, the Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top priority that deserves everyone's 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 the State, counties, Feds, and private sector work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems. This Legislature has really stood up, and hopefully will do even more this year.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawai'i County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, miconia, spittlebug, and probably others. However, we cannot give up. And since, as a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own, we need as much assistance from the State as you can offer.

While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting invasives, and therefore urge passage of SB 2622 in some form. Please provide as much money as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, include positions and funding in your priorities for the State budget, and let's move forward.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/24/2020 2:43:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 1/29/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Fernley	Testifying for Coral Fish Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2622

Submitted on: 1/28/2020 11:23:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/29/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Testifying for Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee strongly supports this bill to restore critical technician positions with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife. These positions will be critical in managing our forest reserves in the aftermath of Rapid Ohia Death. As ohia tree canopy contracts, invasive plants will rapidly fill in the gaps. In lower elevation degraded forests we may need to accept some losses. However, in our upper elevation, highly biodiverse, native-species dominated forests, a small team of technicians can keep forest invaders at bay, preserve native forest bird habitat, and ensure that healthy watersheds continue to supply water to our aquifers. Forestry technicians are a big part of what keeps Hawaii uniquely Hawaii! Thank you for your support for these positions.

LATE



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 29, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 2622
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 229
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2622, which funds to the department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife for invasive species technician positions in the county of Hawaii 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.

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

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