

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**MARCH 11, 2020
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2713 SD2
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2713 SD2, Relating to Biosecurity. 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. The fund is administered by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council. 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, and 89. 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.

The Department appreciates the Legislature's work on this measure and has one remaining area of concern. The parameters of an invasive species emergency declaration need clarification. Currently, governor declared emergencies are limited to sixty (60) days pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statute §127A-14(d). 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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
AGRICULTURE

Friday, March 13, 2020

8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2713, SENATE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 2713, Senate Draft 2, proposes to establish an invasive species rapid response trust 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. Establishing this fund as a trust fund would allow appropriated funds to remain available across fiscal years.

The Department is supportive of amendments in Senate Draft 2 that clarify the definition of “newly detected invasive species” and clarify that the moneys shall be expended by the HISC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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 AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2713, S.D. 2

March 13, 2020
8:30 a.m.
Room 312

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

The Department of Budget and Finance offers comments on Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 2713, S.D. 2.

S.B. No. 2713, S.D. 2, establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Trust Fund (ISRRTF) and appropriates unspecified sums of trust funds and general funds for FY 21 to mitigate the impact of invasive species and immediately address newly detected threats. The ISRRTF 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 trust fund expenditures in the event of an invasive species emergency declaration.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of trust funds that require regular general fund appropriations to support its activities, and it is difficult to determine whether the proposed trust fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

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
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March 11, 2020

TO: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Alice L. Lee 
Council Chair

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 13, 2020; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2713, SD 2, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this bill is to protect the State's resources, agriculture, and health and to execute the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan by appropriating funds to mitigate or eradicate newly detected invasive species threats in the State.

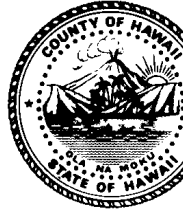
The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

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 trust 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.

Harry Kim
Mayor



LATE

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 11, 2020

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2713, SD2 Relating to Biosecurity

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2713, SD2.

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 SB 2713, SD2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



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

March 13, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2713, SD2
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, 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 2713, SD2, which establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Trust Fund for rapid responses to invasive species emergencies.

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 HISC 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.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 312
FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2020 AT 8:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair;
The Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2713 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 strong support of SB2713.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports SB2713 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 originate elsewhere 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.

SB-2713-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:17:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

Senate Bill 2713 SD2, Relating to Biosecurity
Testifying in Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Creagan, Vice-Chair DeCoite, and members of the Agriculture Committee

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party **supports passage of SB2713 SD2, Relating to Biosecurity**. This bill is part of the initiative to embrace Aloha 'Aina through a Green New Deal for Hawaii working families, having experienced repeated disruptions resulting from Hawaii's position in a global market economy with inadequate controls on tag-along species that threaten Hawaii's fragile environment. The necessity of protecting our islands from invasive species has been a perennial concern of the Environment Caucus, and we sincerely appreciate the formation and work effort of the Invasive Species Council.

The list of tragedies is long and frustrating, but your Invasive Species Council has persevered with intelligence and care. It is altogether fitting that your committees hear this important bill to improve protection of our landscapes. A crucial element of Hawaii preparedness must be the capacity to respond quickly to discoveries of outbreaks of destructive alien species.

Plant and food products of every description arrive in the islands daily, and our diligent efforts to identify dangers to our current landscape are simply stretched to their maximum. The Environmental Caucus lauds the efforts of our State inspectors to protect us from the most serious threats, but identification of pests cannot be the sole weapon in our arsenal to combat disastrous results of invasive species taking hold in a land without natural predators. We, the people, must become those predators, launching effective and targeted response to invasive threats.

It will become increasingly essential for Hawaii to demonstrate proof-of- concept pilot projects in virtually every field. This bill represents 21st Century infrastructural support that Hawaii will be proud to herald as our legacy of forward thinking. The small amounts that will support this rapid response mechanism far outweigh the losses sure to follow if we fail to act.

As an element of the initiative to assure a stable and productive environment for all Hawaii working families, the Environmental Caucus Green New Deal Working Group strongly urges prompt passage of this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

/s/

Charley Ice, Green New Deal Working Group, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2713-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/11/2020 5:47:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2020 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2713. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must do what we can to protect Hawaii's dwindling native species, which will in turn protect Hawaii’s fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui