

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
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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**  
**AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2020**  
**1:15 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 2713**  
**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Senate Bill 2713 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.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2713

**February 5, 2020**  
**1:15 p.m.**  
**Room 224**

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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

S.B. No. 2713 establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Trust Fund (ISRRTF) and appropriates \$1,000,000 in trust funds and \$1,000,000 in general funds for FY 21 for deposit into the trust fund 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.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 at 1:15 pm

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

### SB 2713 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2713 relating to invasive species.

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 SB 2713 is using concepts of EDRR by defining a rapid response trust fund for this 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 as to their effects on invasive species control. 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 SB 2713; 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**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020  
1:15 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2713, 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 and expenditures are made by the Department of Land and Natural Resources. 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, a change is needed regarding which agencies can expend the funds. The current bill specifies that only the Department of Land and Natural Resources can expend the funds. This should be broadened so that any member agency of the Council can expend funds, because they all have roles in invasive species response and management.

Lastly, 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

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January 27, 2020

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 2713, Relating to Biosecurity**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2713.

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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim  
MAYOR

## HB1770: Invasive Species Rapid Response Fund. SUPPORT



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. 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!

What is Rapid Response? It 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. Agencies respond once an organism has been detected on-island and the likely 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 get 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, the position responsible for following up was empty, and 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. Free, 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 it a success. 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!





**SB-2713**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 12:47:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Nicole K Galase	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:



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February 5, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2713**  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 224  
1:15 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 2713**, 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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 224  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2020 AT 1:15 P.M.**

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

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG 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*

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**

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:51:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Simon Russell	Testifying for Farm Maui LLC	Support	No

Comments:

**SB-2713**

Submitted on: 1/27/2020 8:11:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

**SB-2713**

Submitted on: 2/3/2020 11:48:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2020 1:15:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Support	No

Comments: