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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Friday, February 7, 2020
1:35 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2758
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 2758 proposes to fund 10 permanent positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for the detection and management of invasive species in protected areas. **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 Interagency Biosecurity Plan (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. Initial focus of these positions would likely center on detection and response to rapid 'ōhi'a death statewide, with expansion to control of other invasive species threats as necessary.

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

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

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

**FEBRUARY 7, 2020
1:35 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2758
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2758, relating to biosecurity. The bill appropriates funds from the general fund for fiscal year 2020-2021 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for operating expenses to detect and remove invasive species in the State's protected areas and for ten permanent full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) positions on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Maui, and Oahu. The Department supports 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.



SB-2758

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:26:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/7/2020 1:35:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian conservationist, I am in support of SB2758. This bill protects Hawaii's natural resources from invasive species for future generations.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.