

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

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FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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**

**Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 871
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 871 would appropriate funds for positions at the Hawaii Island Branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to reduce the problem of invasive species on Hawaii Island. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes invasive species as a major problem for the protection of natural resources, as well as for agricultural production, tourism, and human health. The Department notes that the administration request includes 10 positions for invasive species mitigation statewide at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife as a first step toward reaching a goal of 45 positions by 2027, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. This administration request includes two positions for Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER & LAND

FEBRUARY 11, 2019
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 871
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Gabbard and Kahele and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 871, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions to control invasive species, such as miconia, in Hawaii County. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

Funding for control of invasive species such as miconia is critical to ensure appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained. Staffing is a critical component of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan; however, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is only one of the many partnering agencies included in the Interagency Biosecurity Plan that are charged with protecting Hawaii. Each partnering agency has a critical role in ensuring that the action items in the plan can be implemented. The Department of Agriculture also plays a critical role in the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species throughout the State and including funding for Department of Agriculture staff would enable a more comprehensive implementation of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-871

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 12:31:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
andy levin	Testifying for county of hawaii, Mayor's office	Support	No

Comments:

In the past two years, the Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top priority that deserved 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 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, and probably others. But all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." 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.

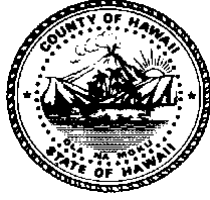
While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting invasives, and therefore urge passage of SB 871 in some form. Please provide as much funding as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, and let's move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim, Mayor

LATE

County of Hawai'i
Council District 4 -
Lower Puna



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ASHLEY L. KIERKIEWICZ

HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 4
Chair: Committee on Planning, and Committee on Government Relations & Economic Development
25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 10, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice-Chair

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Kaiiali'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair

**RE: Support for SB871
relating to Invasive Species on Hawai'i Island**

Aloha, Senators:

As Chair of the Committee on Government Relations and Economic Development for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB871, which would establish invasive species technician positions in the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife Hawai'i branch.

Invasive species pose a serious threat to our economy, environment, health, safety and quality of life. We must invest our resources to protect our precious ecosystems. While I agree with the need for these positions, I ask you to consider amending this bill to include appropriations for the Big Island Invasive Species Committee – either in lieu of a couple of positions or in addition to the five identified in this bill. It is important to support existing efforts and infrastructure in place to eradicate invasive species.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position further.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ashley Lehualani Kierkiewicz
Hawai'i County Council, District 4

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 5:22:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is too broad, and allows the DLNR too much leeway in deciding which "invasive" species to control.

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

S.B. 871

Relating to Invasive Species

Monday, February 11, 2019
2:45 p.m., Agenda Item #8
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Sharon Suzuki
President, Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities
Hawaiian Electric Light Company, Inc. & Maui Electric Company, Limited

Dear Chair Gabbard and Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Ruderman and Vice Chair Keith-
Agaran and Members of the Committees,

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric
Company Inc. and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company, Limited and Hawai'i
Electric Light Company, Inc. ("the Hawaiian Electric Companies") in support of S.B. 871,
Relating to Invasive Species.

S.B. 871 provides funds to establish invasive technician positions for the
Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hawai'i
county to control invasive species, from negatively impacting the environment and
economy.

Hawaiian Electric Companies support the S.B. 871 for the following reasons:

- Albizia trees are an invasive species, and a hazard to public safety and
critical infrastructure.

- Strands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow on many public and private properties. Tropical Storm Iselle brought down many Albizia trees, blocked roadways, and caused millions of dollars in damage to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.
- The efforts to mitigate their damage, like many other invasive species has become protracted and expensive.
- DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Hawaii Branch) and Big Island Invasive Species Council have made significant efforts in controlling invasive species on Hawaii Island.
- This bill will help fund five invasive species technician positions for the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife- Hawaii Branch. The invasive species technician's will help to control invasive plants and animals from negatively impacting the Hawaii island community.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 871 which will help further efforts to control or eradicate invasive species. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting SB871 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2019, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports SB871 that would provide an **additional \$500,000** to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to hire additional staff to address invasive pests on Hawai'i island.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive.

We also hope that the funding and staffing proposed in this bill will continue to be additive. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. Beyond this bill's additive funding, we encourage the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Duke E. Ah Moo Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Richard A. Cooke III Ka'iulani de Silva Brian J. Doyle
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Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle



LATE

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February 11, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON SB 871
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 224
2:45 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

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 871, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Hawaii branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawaii island 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.

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:37:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-871

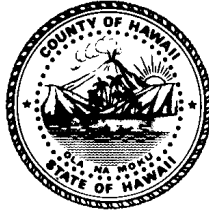
Submitted on: 2/7/2019 7:21:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
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Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 8, 2019

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Honorable Senator Kaiali'i Kahele

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of SB 871**

Hearing Date/Time: February 11, 2019 at 2:45 p.m.

Dear Senators:

As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management and Vice Chair for the Committee on Finance for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of SB 871**. Hawai'i Island needs invasive species technician positions order to continue the battle against the many invasive plants and animals that have been causing chaos to our island, its residents and our economic driver of agriculture. I strongly recommend appropriation of any funding needed to continue the combat of invasive species on Hawai'i Island.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/9/2019 9:16:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The bill is extremely imprecise. It doesn't specify which "invasive species" are being targeted. The list of 6 examples is very limited and not particularly helpful. If funds are to be appropriated, the bill should be more specific about exactly what the money will be used for. There is also no indication of what kind of controls will be used on the various "invasive species." How will the axis deer be eliminated? Will it be painless for the deer? Will hunters just be allowed to hunt them anywhere? What about such "invasive species" as feral chickens, cats, pigs, and horses? Can this funding be used to eliminate them? How will the people in charge ensure that no tame or owned animals will be eliminated?

I realize this is just a general bill to start the conversation and will be changed as it progresses but I suggest that the bill be made more specific at this point to indicate which animals, insects, etc. will be targeted with a better idea of how they will be eliminated. This will allow for more serious and well thought out testimony which could help the final version be acceptable to more people.

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 2:14:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB871. Hawaii is called the endangered species capital of the world due in large part to invasive species. We must take measures to do what we can to limit the entry of non-native species to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

LATE

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
And

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 11, 2019 at 2:45 p.m.

By

Nicholas Comerford

Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno

Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Vice Chancellor for Research

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 871 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 871 relating to invasive species and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Hawai'i branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawai'i Island to address invasive plants and animals. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

A single miconia plant can invade >2,400 acres of protected watershed in tropical area over time. One mature plant produce approximately 400 fruits and 80,000 seeds. Fruits are attractive to birds which spread the seeds over long distances. Seeds from one fruit can survive 32-48 years (serious weed seed bank problem). Miconia also has a shallow root system that facilitates soil erosion.

CTAHR former invasive species specialist, Dr. James Leary, has developed a novel and impactful herbicide ballistic technology with a selective herbicide to manage this highly invasive weed targeting on incipient populations of miconia that are colonizing remote sections.

Skillful technicians are urgently needed to carry out this task in a timely manner before Hawai'i Island watersheds are severely impacted.

A study by Dr. Leary showed that one new mature plant impacts an estimated 850 acres of forested watershed with an associated cost of \$66,000 to ameliorate.

A real life example of how damaging miconia can be in the tropical rainforest is that a quarter of the rainforest in Tahiti is now made up of miconia stands.

We support the intent of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents Approved Budget. In addition, we suggest that this bill be considered in the context of the other invasive species bills with particular emphasis on SB 523 and 685

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 6:35:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/10/2019 10:44:55 PM
Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/11/2019 12:56:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2019 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't trust the DLNR's designation of which species are "invasive".