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OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1179, H.D. 1

February 24, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1179, H.D. 1: establishes a pilot program within the Aina Mauna Legacy Program of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians; requires DHHL to submit reports to the Legislature; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for the pilot program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
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STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 24, 2022 AT 11:00AM VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HB 1179, HD1, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

February 24, 2022

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1179, HD1. This bill establishes a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians. The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

Gorse is a highly invasive thorny shrub that creates impenetrable thickets which can be over 12 feet tall. DHHL Aina Mauna lands contain Hawaii's largest infestation of gorse, covering over 10,000 acres which prohibits homesteading and other land uses. The ecology and characteristics of this invasive species, which include abundant and early seed production, is easily spread and an over 30-year seedbank life, make containment, removal and long-term control of gorse very difficult and costly. The importance of eliminating this plant cannot be overstated. DHHL spends a great amount of time, effort and resources to control gorse annually and continues to look for the most feasible, efficient and effective long term solution to the gorse infestation on the Aina Mauna lands of Humuula and Piihonua. Any assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.

The Hawaii Gorse Task Force Report prepared for the 31st Legislature 2021 Regular Session by DHHL in response to Senate Resolution 69, Senate Draft 1 identifies Short Term and Long Term Gorse Solutions, Proposed Legislation, and Additional Recommendations that can be viewed here: <https://dhhl.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Hawaii-Gorse-Task-Force-Report-to-the-2021-Leg.pdf>.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

HB-1179-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 4:27:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
scott unger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Nakashima and Committee:

My name is Scott Unger, owner of Ali'i Gas, Inc on the Big Island.

I am in full support of HB1179.

I have worked with Pomai Freitas on multiple projects on the Big Island. His work with Hui Ho'olako for Hawaiian Initiatives with regard to the Animal Feed Project is nothing short of brilliant. Pomai has been extremely creative and has worked tirelessly collaborating with UH-Hilo, HPU, Hawaiian Homes, Cyanotech, Symbrosia, and others to produce a product that has the potential to address two key issues: 1) Elimination of gorse on Mauna Kea. 2) Provide animal feed utilizing gorse and other by-products from local industry . Additionally, this feed has the potential to eliminate methane in animal waste. The Animal Feed Project would be a tremendous benefit to local farmers/ranchers who wish to raise their livestock from "Field to Fork".

Again, this is a very worthwhile project and deserves to be supported.