

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1931 HD1
Relating to Mosquito Control

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 2/28/2022 Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department supports this amended bill provided that its passage does
2 not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental budget.

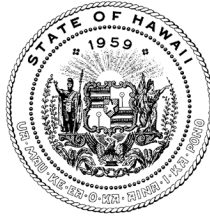
3 **Department Testimony:** The Department strongly supports passage of HB1931 HD1, which
4 appropriates funds to establish one 1.0 FTE position in the Department of Land and Natural
5 Resources, to support planning and implementation of landscape scale mosquito control in both
6 public health and conservation. Coordinated efforts between DLNR and the Department of
7 Health, along with other state, federal and private stakeholders require an individual dedicated to
8 manage and monitor the various ongoing projects in mosquito control.

9 The Department concurs and appreciates the amendments included in this revised version of
10 HB1931 HD1.

11

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**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
FINANCE**

**Monday, February 28, 2022
12:30 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1931, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MOSQUITO CONTROL**

House Bill 1931, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for the establishment of one 1.0 FTE position to support planning and implementation of landscape scale mosquito control efforts for the benefit of conservation and public health. **The Department supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental budget.**

Mosquito-borne diseases threaten human health and the continued existence of the remaining Hawaiian forest birds, with several bird species on the brink of extinction. *Aedes* mosquitos have the potential to spread throughout the islands and can carry diseases that can be transmitted to humans. Action is urgently needed to counter both native species and human threats, and capacity is needed to bring the program online as soon as possible. The proposed program specialist position will provide that capacity.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

HB-1931-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 11:37:58 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia King	DLNR	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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 FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1931, H.D. 1

February 28, 2022
12:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO MOSQUITO CONTROL

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

House Bill No. 1931, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to establish one full-time Program Specialist position in the Department of Land and Natural Resources to support development of mosquito control measures.

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.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
SUPPORT FOR HB 1931 HD1, RELATING TO MOSQUITO CONTROL.

Committee on Finance
February 28, 2022, 12:30 pm
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

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

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) supports HB 1931 HD1, Relating to Mosquito Control, which appropriates funds for the establishment of one full-time equivalent program specialist related to mosquito control in the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).

Hawai'i's native forest birds are facing an extinction crisis. Before the 1800s there were no mosquitoes in Hawai'i. Since then, a handful of mosquito species have become established in the islands. In the 1900s, exotic birds from regions where avian malaria was endemic were brought to Hawai'i. With both the mosquito vector and avian malaria parasite (*Plasmodium relictum*) present, the native forest bird populations were decimated. Because they evolved without natural exposure to avian malaria, native Hawaiian forest birds are extremely susceptible to this disease and many species went extinct, while others' home ranges contracted and their populations declined. In the past, forest birds residing in higher elevations that were too cold for efficient mosquito reproduction and parasite development were mostly spared. Now, as the planet warms from the climate crisis, these high elevation refugia have diminished; mosquitoes and the avian malaria they vector are killing forest birds at higher and higher elevations.

A significant interagency and inter-organizational effort is underway to develop mosquito control methods to prevent further extinction of Hawai'i's remaining forest birds. Currently, this is an additional effort on top of full workloads. Hawai'i's birds need increased staff and resources to ensure their survival, from DLNR to nonprofits and beyond. TNC manages multiple preserves throughout the state that provide habitat to the bird species facing extinction due to climate change and avian malaria and we are investing resources in this effort. The Conservancy is committed to working with DLNR and stakeholders on taking action to ensure these species' survival, but DLNR needs additional staff to ensure this work can be achieved.

The position established by HB 1931 HD1 will bolster DLNR's efforts to control mosquitoes spreading avian malaria. This support will go far in helping to save these iconic birds. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1931 HD1.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i and Palmyra is a non-profit 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 nature preserves and work in over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties, and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and for the many benefits they provide to people.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
February 28, 2022
12:30 p.m. via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of HB 1931 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is in support of **HB 1931 HD1, Relating to Mosquito Control**. The aim of this measure is to provide funding for 1 FTE planner position within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to focus on mosquitoes.

From my early days as an environmental educator, one of the stories that resonated with students has been the story of the arrival of the first mosquitoes in barrels of drinking water on whaling vessels, and the spread of two diseases that were new to the islands—bird malaria and pox. Non-native Southern house mosquitoes—which despite their name, survive just fine in warm, low-elevation forest—feed on native and non-native birds, picking up and spreading these diseases through their bite. Even today, non-native birds like the zebra doves, mynahs, house finches, and white eyes are infected with one or both of these diseases and serve as a reservoir of disease, and native birds are limited to upper elevation forests where it has been too cold for the mosquitoes to thrive. With the warming climate, researchers are seeing the mosquitoes expand their range into upper elevation forests, where they can infect those remaining native birds. If we can break the disease cycle, native forest birds could expand into lower elevation forests and would have plenty of habitat.

Planning for the *Birds, Not Mosquitoes* project is a multi-agency & NGO effort that could use additional agency support. As many of you know, this project aims to replace the gut biome of male Southern house mosquitoes with the gut biome from a different insect, which prevents the next generation of larvae from turning into adult mosquitoes. Dropping the population of mosquitoes can break the infection cycle, as has been shown by a growing number of public health departments in cities and countries around the world. The work is important and deserves full-time focus and coordination by the State. Please consider supporting this bill. Mahalo!

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

HB-1931-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 5:53:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass HB1931 to save our native birds and to protect us from epidemics of mosquito borne diseases that are likely to increase with the warming of the climate. We have tolerated these deadly invaders in our aina for way too long, and new technologies offer the promise of eradicating them or reducing them to non-threatening levels.

HB-1931-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 10:38:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee Finance,

I am writing in support of HB1931 HD1. Effective mosquito control is the only way we will be able to save our native forest birds. I have planted trees to restore bird habitat on Mauna Kea and done many projects at the Hakalau Forest National Wildlife Refuge, but if mosquitoes and the diseases they carry will continue to move upslope they will destroy the remaining populations of these birds. Control of mosquitoes is the only way to save then birds, and, as a major landowner in the state, the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources has the responsibility of being a leader in mosquito control efforts. Thank you for your support.

Signed,

J. B. Friday, PhD

HB-1931-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2022 10:14:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and committee members,

This position for a mosquito borne specialist in the Dept of Land and Natural Resources will greatly assist in the conservation of our native forest birds, treasures of Hawai‘i and royal symbols to our native Hawaiian people.

Aloha,

Benton Keaiii Pang, Ph.D.

HB-1931-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2022 10:27:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The control of mosquitos in Hawaii is an extremely important mission, not only to save our endangered forest birds, but also to protect the health of other species, including humans throughout the islands.

I strongly support HB 1931 HD1. Thank you.

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Individual Citizen, University of Hawaii at Hilo

Monday, February 28, 2022

Support for HB 1931, Relating to Mosquito Control

I am a student currently attending the University of Hawaii and my current research interests align with efforts to decrease and hopefully eliminate the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Mosquito-borne diseases have been on the rise in the last couple of years and have impacted not only human health, but their effects have expanded to other sectors including conservation, economics, and tourism. I strongly support HB 1931, Relating to Mosquito Control, which will support any efforts developed by the department of land and natural resources efforts in controlling mosquito populations.

Mosquito control must be a priority, especially during these difficult times. With the emergence of new diseases and the re-emergence of old ones, it is important that serious efforts and attention are given to ensure the protection of the general public from the further spread of any mosquito-borne diseases. The first step into tackling the situation is by first focusing on the vector, as it is known that there is no human-to-human transmission, these diseases can only be transmitted through the bite of an infected mosquito.