

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2024
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2133
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2133. This bill establishes an invasive species grant pilot program to provide grants through the Department of Agriculture (Department) to individuals, businesses, and organizations for the eradication of invasive species on property located in Hawaii that is owned by the individual, business, or organization. The Department supports assisting individuals, businesses and organizations as noted in this measure and offers comments.

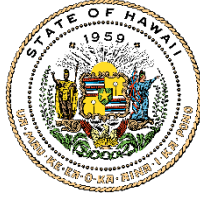
The Department understands that this bill addresses detections on private property and that responding to detections requires consent from the property owner. A condition for a grant pilot program would include, but not be limited to a program manager, staff conducting positive identification, recommending treatment that can be done by the individual, business or organization and advising of proper use and necessary PPE, as applicable. This work would require at minimum \$1,500,000 in staffing to execute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Monday, January 12, 2024
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2133
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2133 establishes an invasive species grant pilot program to provide grants through DOA to individuals, businesses, and organizations for the eradication of invasive species on property located in Hawai'i that is owned by the individual, business, or organization. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department administratively houses the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), and DLNR's Division of Forestry and Wildlife provides program support to HISC. Since 2005, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council has disbursed funds annually for innovative projects addressing invasive species prevention, control, outreach, and research. Only government agencies are eligible for these funds, leaving private landowners and businesses to take on the cost of controlling pests on their property themselves. Little fire ant (LFA) has been especially problematic for many landowners and businesses, especially on Hawai'i Island where this pest is widespread and creates a major challenge for workers to harvest their products.

Last November, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council hosted the Senate Ways and Means (WAM) Committee site visit at a local banana farm on Hawai'i Island. This farm provides much of the local bananas found in Hawaii's grocery stores and spends tens of thousands of dollars per year on controlling little fire ant on the property. This is a huge cost on this farm but it's necessary so that farm workers can harvest bananas without getting covered in painful stings, the crop remains productive, and consumers receive product free of LFA. The owner of this farm spoke to the WAM Committee and expressed the need for help. The farm is vigilant about controlling

little fire ant on the property and taking on the cost but the surrounding neighbors are not, so the farm continues to get reinfested and needs to do treatment regularly.

This measure would help support farmers and landowners who want to do the right thing but struggle to have the means to do it. The Department recommends that the Department of Agriculture develop a list of pests that this grant program would support control measures for including little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and two-lined spittlebug.

The Department recognizes the Legislature's concern for the issue and greatly appreciates the introduction of this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



NORTH SHORE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 27

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 106 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
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January 27, 2024

Sharon Hurd
Chair
State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture Board
Plant Quarantine Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

North Shore Neighborhood Board Testimony in Support of Strong HDOA Invasive Species Rules

Aloha Chair Hurd,

The North Shore community on O'ahu is very concerned about the proliferation of invasive species – especially the Little Fire Ants (LFA) and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) and their negative impact on the foliage, animals, and residents of our area and the entire state.

The State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has the sole authority to stop or regulate the movement of invasive pests or material infested with an invasive pest, yet the Department lacks clear, sensible rules that can better address the spread of invasive pests around or within an island. We are now finding that the CRB are moving from palm trees to non-palm trees in our area. Unfortunately, no one seems to have a clue on how to fight or prevent the spread of these evil pests. What will happen next? Infestations of our grass and shrubbery? What about our livestock and pets; not to mention our keiki. We need clear rules and the Department needs funding to fight and fine those who spread these invasive pests.

It should be illegal for nurseries and garden shops to knowingly sell plants infested with LFA or coqui frogs, bags of compost with Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles, or to sell any materials infested with serious pests. Further, HDOA should have the authority to require a nursery infested with a serious pest like LFA to control the infestation before selling infested plants and materials. The proposed changes to chapter 72 are vital to preventing the establishment and spread of the next serious invasive pest.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture should also pass the rules that re-start the compliance program to manage the spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles around O'ahu in greenwaste and other host material.

Mālama 'āina,

Kathleen M. Pahinui

Kathleen M. Pahinui
Chair, North Shore Neighborhood Board #27

Cc: Council Member Matt Weyer, District II
Senator Brenton Awa
Representative Sean Quinlan
Representative Amy Perruso



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

February 12, 2024 2:00 PM Conference Room 312

In SUPPORT of:

HB2104: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

HB2131: RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

HB2132: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2133: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2139: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2537: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

HB2644: RELATING TO LITTLE FIRE ANTS

HB2672: RELATING TO LITTLE FIRE ANTS

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB2104, HB2131, HB2132, HB2133, HB2139, HB2537, HB2644, and HB2672**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Hawai'i's history provides us with a host of lessons regarding the wide-ranging and potentially irreversible damage that invasive species can inflict on our islands and ways of life. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, impacting not just native habitat but also reducing aquifer recharge, increasing our vulnerability to floods and wildfires, and smothering our nearshore reefs and waters with runoff. Parasites and other pests have impacted local food production and increased the use of toxic pesticides on farms and in home gardens, risking both public health as well as threatening stream and nearshore species critical to our aquatic ecosystems. Invasive animals have also extirpated native species, continue to threaten others with outright extinction, and continue to undermine public health by acting as vectors for zoonotic diseases. Most recently, the spread of invasive pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, hala scale, two-lined spittlebug and others will require substantial and long-needed policies and investments over the long-term, to prevent additional and even greater impacts to our islands and our future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports the much needed policies and investments contemplated in these measures. More financial support is critical for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to fulfill its biosecurity mission; funding for targeted campaigns to address the little fire ant and two-lined spittlebug are critical to preventing the ecological, cultural, agricultural, public health, and economic impacts of these pests; financial support for



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

businesses and organizations to engage in invasive species control and eradication will engage more of the community in the all-hands-on-deck fight to combat their spread; agricultural invasive species placards will encourage agricultural producers to proactively employ best management practices and other measures to prevent and address invasive species on agricultural lands; and quarantine requirements will help to fill a critical gap in our regulatory toolbox that has allowed the sale of infested plants and other communities – a gap that has likely contributed to the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, and the ongoing spread of little fire ants across the islands.

Much remains uncertain as we continue to reckon with the consequences of Hawai‘i’s longstanding failure to enact critical biosecurity protections. However, it is certain that much stronger action, including but not limited to the proposals in the aforementioned bills, will be necessary to mitigate or prevent the worst of these and other future impacts to our lives and that of our children and future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



LATE

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February 12, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2133
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 312 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2133, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding is critical for the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. This measure will provide necessary resources to farmers and ranchers to help control and hopefully eradicate invasive species in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

HB-2133

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 10:49:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Establishes an invasive species grant pilot program to provide grants through DOA to individuals, businesses, and organizations for the eradication of invasive species on property located in Hawaii that is owned by the individual, business, or organization.

HB-2133

Submitted on: 2/10/2024 2:01:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/12/2024 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I stand in support of HB2133.

Eradication of invasive species is definitely an added expense to any individual, homeowner, business, or organization. Not only is it time consuming, but also requires funds for pesticides, removal/modification of certain conditions or material on the property, and possibly equipment for either distributing the pesticides or physical barriers to eradicate the invasive species. Owning a home in Hawaii is costly and any additional financial burden can be a barrier to efforts to eradicate invasive species, allowing the invasive species to flourish and grow its population the longer the barrier is present. Thus, this grant program shall assist and speed up the eradication of invasive species. Mahalo to the authors and introducers of this bill for protecting Hawaii's environment and resources.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma