

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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CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
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ENFORCEMENT
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2758 HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Bill 2758 House Draft 2 facilitates the control and eradication of invasive species and pests, establishes a plant nursery licensing program, requires the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to designate certain species as pests for control or eradication, imposes certain limits on imports and transportation, and updates the method by which the DOA's noxious weed list is updated. The **Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The threat of a new, devastating pest or disease is ever-present. As global trade and travel continues to increase and expand, there are more opportunities for new pest incursions to occur. Recent statistics for Hawai'i estimate that 80% of commodities and 90% of our food is imported, and over six million people visit Hawai'i each year, making border biosecurity critical for preventing new invasive species from arriving and spreading in the state.

Drastic changes in the State's ability to regulate and prevent new and existing invasive species from entering and spreading are necessary and addressed in the 2017-2027 Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. House Bill 2758 House Draft 2 addresses many of the actions identified in the plan and its passage would support continued progress on achieving the plan's goal of a more biosecure Hawai'i.

Below is a list of how some of the proposed actions in this measure align with actions in the biosecurity plan:

HB 2758 Action	HIBP Actions
Amends the chapter 150A HRS definition of pest so that a “pest” does not have to be designated by the Board of Agriculture.	Ore Border Policy 1.1, 1.2, Border Policy 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 2.2, Post Policy 1.1, 2.3
Proposed Chapter 72 HAR rule changes	Post Policies 1.1, 1.2,1.3, 1.5
Authorizes noxious weeds to be designated by a Board of Agriculture process that must occur each year	Border Policy 2.1

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 22, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2758, HD2
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2758, HD2 relating to invasive species. This bill facilitates the control and eradication of invasive species and pests; establishes a plant nursery licensing program; requires the department to designate certain species as pests for control and eradication; imposes limits on imports and transportation; and updates the method by which the Department's noxious weed list is updated.

The Department recognizes the threats pests and invasive species pose but respectfully opposes this bill. This bill will require extensive legal review to ensure clarity and consistency, in addition to substantial changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules to implement. The Department also notes, funding has not been appropriated to support the intent of the bill. To fully support the intent of this Bill, the Department would need the funding for the following: 1) Establish an entire new Branch to accommodate Plant



Nursery Licensing Program with a statewide CIP budget for facilities being approximately \$12.5 million, with staffing and operational funds of \$8.3 million. 2) The Plant Quarantine and Plant Pest Control Branches would need to reorganize and expand in size and scope of services with corresponding increases in facilities, vehicles, and operational costs. The Plant Quarantine Branch estimates a statewide CIP budget for facilities of approximately \$18 million, with staffing and operational funds of \$31.2 million. The Plant Pest Control Branch estimates a CIP budget for facilities statewide of approximately \$60 million and staffing and operational funds of \$30 million to support the intent of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 11:23:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D. Kapono Chong-Hanssen, MD	'Ahahui o na Kauka. Association of Native Hawaiian Physicians	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

'Ahahui o nā Kauka is an organization of Native Hawaiian physicians dedicated the health of the people of Hawai'i and Native Hawaiians in particular. We are deeply concerned about the recent spread of invasive pests throughout the pae 'āina o Hawai'i, and we urge you to do everything you can to rein in the spread of these pests emerging as threats to our food security, native ecosystems, culture practices, economy, quality of life and health.



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Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2758.**

This bill tackles the pressing issue of invasive species and pests, which pose a significant threat to our agricultural industry. The control and eradication of these destructive organisms are crucial for the sustainability and success of our farming communities.

The establishment of a plant nursery licensing program outlined in this bill is a much-needed step towards better regulation and oversight of the industry. This program will help ensure that nurseries adhere to best practices and implement appropriate measures to prevent the spread of invasive species and pests. By licensing nurseries, we can protect our farms from the unintended consequences of introducing harmful organisms into our fragile ecosystems.

Moreover, the requirement for the Department of Agriculture to designate certain species as pests for control or eradication demonstrates a proactive approach towards the management of invasive species. An additional consideration is to establish a white-list for plant imports versus only a black-list of species of known concern.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Finance

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 22, 2024

H.B. 2758, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly opposes H.B. 2758, H.D. 2 which facilitates the control and eradication of invasive species and pests, establishes a plant nursery licensing program, requires the Board of Agriculture to designate certain species as pests for control or eradication, and imposes certain limits on imports and transportation.

While we understand and can generally support the intent of H.B. 2758, H.D. 2 to facilitate the control and eradication of invasive species and pests and assist the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in carrying out its responsibilities, we have serious concerns due to the potential impact it will have on the department and its current civil service employees. This proposed legislation removes authority and responsibility from the Department of Agriculture and allows for duties and responsibilities currently performed by state employees, to be performed by outside agencies who are not employees of the state's plant regulatory agency.

Authority and control of the state's pest and invasive species programs should remain solely with the DOA and duties performed by this program should continue to be performed by civil service employees. These programs must continue to be performed by civil servants and 'private entities' should not be allowed to do this work – civil service duties and responsibilities should solely be reserved for civil servants.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of H.B. 2758, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director



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February 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2758, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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.

HFB recognizes the importance of preventing destructive invasive species from entering the State and how difficult it is to manage those that become established in our islands. We appreciate the difficult work of HDOA and its partners in preventing entry and their efforts to eradicate or control these detrimental animals, insects, weeds, diseases, and other pests.

The livelihood of farmers and ranchers is entirely dependent upon the health and ecological balance of our environment. We understand the need for updated policies and procedures to prevent the spread of these pest species; however, invasive species control is not always straightforward and is rarely easy. Agricultural producers rely on the expertise and assistance of HDOA in its battle to control invasive species because HDOA understands the operations of farmers and ranchers and works cooperatively with them to ensure that they are not put out of business while addressing pest control.

HFB has concerns about parts of this measure; for example, Section 141-3.5(b) and (c), and Section 141-3.6(a) and (b) that would unnecessarily remove authority from HDOA. We respectfully suggest that HDOA retain control of invasive species programs and be adequately funded and staffed to accomplish its mandates. Shifting authority from HDOA to the ISCs, the Hawaii Ant Lab, or the applicable county, will present organizational and management problems and should instead be at the discretion of HDOA if it is unable to develop and implement a control or eradication program itself. We believe a better solution would be for HDOA to retain control of its responsibilities, with the ability to contract other entities at its discretion, on a case-by-case basis, to develop or carry out control programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



House of Representatives
Committee On Finance
Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 PM Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB2758 HD2

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in strong support of HB2758 HD2 Relating to Agriculture**, which would facilitate the control and eradication of invasive species and pests, provide statutory authority for the current actions carried out by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), and assist HDOA in addressing priority pests. HB2758 HD2 addresses gaps in Hawaii's biosecurity and allows the Legislature to provide priorities for HDOA. We all agree that HDOA is under-resourced and would benefit from additional funding and staff. However, HB2758 HD2 contains many provisions that will advance Hawaii's biosecurity without requiring significant new expenditures. We hope the Committee will move this bill forward.

Low Cost, High Impact Fixes to Gaps in Hawaii's Biosecurity Framework

Among many other low cost, high impact amendments made by HB2758 HD2, we highlight the following:

Protecting public health and welfare. Only HDOA can stop or restrict the movement of organisms or objects to prevent the introduction or spread of invasive species or pests within Hawaii. Counties, the Invasive Species Committees, business owners, and residents can use chemicals or other treatments to control invasive species infestations but **only HDOA** has the authority to ban, or regulate the movement of, pests or other invasive species or material infested with a pest or invasive species.¹ HB2758 HD2 recognizes that we all rely on HDOA to protect our State and resources from invasive species and makes amendments to clearly state that HDOA's statutory authority to prevent and control invasive pests and weeds is for the protection of not just agriculture and forests, but also for public health and welfare, native species, and the environment. We applaud this clarification. However, we are concerned that in one particular place, this change may need additional refinement so that it is crystal clear

¹ See *Atay v. Cty. of Maui*, 842 F.3d 688, 709 (9th Cir. 2016); *Syngenta Seeds, Inc. v. Cty. of Kauai*, 664 F. App'x 669, 673 (9th Cir. 2016); and *Hawai'i Floriculture & Nursery Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, No. CIV. 14-00267 BMK, 2014 WL 6685817, (D. Haw. Nov. 26, 2014), *aff'd sub nom. Hawai'i Papaya Indus. Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, 666 F. App'x 631 (9th Cir. 2016))

that HDOA may take emergency action to address an incipient infestation of a pest **before** the pest has a chance to spread and show that it adversely affects native species, the environment, or other societal values. To ensure that effects and likely negative impacts to native species and the environment are included as reasonable findings that may allow HDOA to proceed with an expedited course of action, CGAPS respectfully requests that this Committee make a small adjustment in the language on page 11, lines 14 through 20, which currently reads:

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if the department finds the incipient infestation of a pest that has an adverse effect on native species or the environment or that is injurious or deleterious or that is likely to become injurious or deleterious to the public health and welfare, private property, or the agricultural, horticultural, aquacultural, or livestock industries of the State without immediate action, it may proceed

So that it reads as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if the department finds the incipient infestation of a pest that [~~has an adverse effect on the environment or that~~] is injurious or deleterious or that is likely to become injurious or deleterious to native species, the environment, public health and welfare, private property, or the agricultural, horticultural, aquacultural, or livestock industries of the State without immediate action, it may proceed

Protecting Hawaii's forests with common sense firewood requirements. HB2758 HD2 closes another biosecurity gap by addressing the importation of firewood which is currently under-regulated as a pathway for the introduction of harmful pests such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and diseases of trees. Firewood is often low-quality wood and many states already have the common sense firewood heat treatment requirements proposed beginning on page 34, line 17. This leaves Hawai'i in the vulnerable position as one of the few states that will take the low-quality, untreated firewood. Requiring heat treatment prior to importation into Hawai'i is yet another sensible, low cost, and high reward regulation that should have been implemented several years ago when federal regulations related to firewood were repealed. The proposed requirements do not apply to firewood harvested in Hawai'i.

Protecting Citrus Through Effective Enforcement of Federal Quarantines. Hawaii's citrus industry is an example of how we can be successful in diversifying agriculture, yet protective regulations have not been enacted, leaving this multi-million dollar industry, among other industries, at serious risk. HB2758 HD2 closes this huge hole in Hawaii's biosecurity framework. Beginning on page 37, line 20, through page 38, line 15, it prohibits the domestic importation into Hawai'i of items that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has quarantined

from moving interstate to prevent the spread of invasive pests. Currently, HDOA inspectors do not have the authority to enforce USDA interstate quarantines and USDA does not inspect items imported into Hawai'i, so restricted material from federally quarantined areas is able to enter Hawai'i.

Hawai'i is one of two citrus-producing states that does not have documented cases of citrus greening, the most serious citrus disease in the world. There is no cure for this disease which has devastated millions of acres of citrus production around the world, including in Florida and other citrus-producing states.² USDA has developed interstate quarantines to prevent citrus greening from spreading to new areas. Preventing citrus greening and other devastating pests quarantined by USDA from moving interstate into Hawai'i is critical to our biosecurity. Section 436(b) of the federal Plant Protection Act preempts any state law that attempts to restrict "the movement in interstate commerce of any article, means of conveyance, plant, biological control organism, plant pest, noxious weed, or plant product in order to control a plant pest or noxious weed, eradicate a plant pest or noxious weed, or prevent the introduction or dissemination of a biological control organism, plant pest, or noxious weed, if the Secretary [of the United States Department of Agriculture] has issued a regulation or order to prevent the dissemination of the biological control organism, plant pest, or noxious weed within the United States." (7 USC 7756(b)(1)) However, there is an exception for such state restrictions that "are consistent with and do not exceed the regulations or orders issued by the Secretary [of USDA]." (7 USC 7756(b)(2)(A)) To clarify that there is no issue with the Federal preemption under section 436(b) of the Plant Protection Act (7 USC 7756(b)), we suggest borrowing language from section 2(1) of the Idaho Plant Pest Act of 2002 (Idaho Code Ann. § 22-2013 (1)), which provides in part "The [Idaho State Department of Agriculture] may seize, destroy or require treatment of products moved from a federally regulated area if they were not moved in accordance with the federal quarantine rules or, if certified, they were found to be infested with the plant pest." This language has been in effect for more than 20 years. Therefore, we respectfully ask the Committee to consider modifying the language on page 38, lines 1 through 4, to read as follows (additions in bold; deletions are struck through):

- (1) Any regulated article that is prohibited from interstate movement **pursuant to a quarantine issued by the United States Department of Agriculture or a valid quarantine issued by a state, or is required by the United States Department of Agriculture to be certified to prevent the movement of a pest and is found to be infested with the pest,** [~~if moved interstate from an area regulated by a state or federal quarantine,~~] shall not enter the State;

Clarifying that Selling Pest-Infested Plants is Prohibited. Section 16 of HB2758 HD2 makes important changes to section 150A-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, (HRS) which regulates the

² See <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/plant-pest-and-disease-programs/pests-and-diseases/citrus/citrus-greening>

movement of pests within the State. The amendments allow HDOA to stop the movement of merchandise for sale to the public that is infested with a pest. At this time, HDOA has no statutory authority to stop the sale of pest-infested merchandise. Any “quarantine” of plants known to be infested with a pest, such as little fire ants, is **voluntary** for the seller. We strongly support these important changes and note that they will not require a new or expensive program. However, we respectfully suggest the Committee consider one additional amendment that prohibits selling plants infested with a designated pest. This will incentivize nurseries and other plant sellers to use best management practices to ensure that their stock is not infested with pests and protect unsuspecting consumers. One approach is to amend section 150A-8, HRS, to set an administrative penalty for selling plants infested with a known pest. This could be accomplished by adding a new subsection on page 61, between lines 2 and 3, as follows:

“(g) Selling a plant that is infested with a pest designated for purposes of this subsection, or that is stored in an area known to be infested with such a pest, is prohibited. For purposes of this subsection, the department may designate different pests for different islands of the State. Any person who violates this subsection shall be fined no more than \$_____ for each separate offense. Any action taken to impose or collect that penalty shall be considered a civil action.”

Designating the SPRO as a Decision Maker for Invasive Species. Throughout HB2758 HD2, the term “State Plant Regulatory Official” is used and it is defined on page 40, lines 19 and 20, as “the state plant regulatory official for the State, or the official’s designee.” In some cases, the bill takes authority given to the “Chief of the Plant Quarantine Branch” (chief) in HDOA’s regulations and makes the decision-maker the “State Plant Regulatory Official.”

Each state and territory has a State Plant Regulatory Official. In Hawaii, the State Plant Regulatory Official is designated by the Chairperson of HDOA (Chairperson). Typically, it is the Plant Industry Administrator (Administrator), but that is not a requirement. We cannot imagine any situation where the Chairperson would designate a person who is not an employee of HDOA as the State Plant Regulatory Official. It just wouldn’t make sense. The chief (who is the Plant Quarantine Branch Manager) is a civil service position who is supervised by the Administrator. The chief position has been vacant since May 2019, and once a permanent chief is hired that person could stay in that position for years, as Chairpersons change with gubernatorial elections. The authorities set out in HDOA’s pest-prevention statutes are serious and critically important authorities that can lead to the seizure or destruction of private property that is prohibited, restricted, or pest-infested. It is appropriate that the Chairperson designate the appropriate official to carry out those authorities. While typically, the State Plant Regulatory Official is the Administrator, the Chairperson could appoint the chief if she finds that person to be the appropriate official. The State Plant Regulatory Official could also designate the chief to carry out certain authorities if he or she finds it appropriate. However, the Chairperson should have the final authority over how the authorities are carried out. Therefore,

changing the decision maker to the State Plant Regulatory Official provides the Chairperson that needed oversight.

Innovations to Update Invasive Species Administrative Rules

Designated Noxious Weeds. HDOA is under-resourced. The Plant Quarantine Branch is charged with inspecting millions of imports each year and the Department must make on-going decisions on how to allocate its scarce resources. This has resulted in administrative rules intended to prevent the importation or spread of pests and noxious weeds becoming so out of date that they are ineffective. For instance, HDOA has not been able to update its list of noxious weeds in more than 30 years. (§4-68 HAR, *List of Plant Species Designated as Noxious Weeds for Eradication or Control Purposes by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture*, June 18, 1992) Section 150A-6.1(d), HRS, prohibits the commercial importation or sale of noxious weeds. However, since the list of species that are noxious weeds has not been updated in more than 30 years, this prohibition does not prevent the commercial importation or sale of high impact invasive plant species. Part IV of HB2758 HD2 makes amendments to chapter 152, HRS, to set up a rolling, on-going process to keep the list of noxious weeds updated. The noxious weed designation procedures set out in HB2758 HD2 are similar to procedures used by Washington state. While the initial updates to the list will be a big effort, after those initial updates, HDOA will have a process in place to keep the list current with appropriate input from the public and interested groups. Having a list of noxious weeds that is current will make the laws enacted to prevent invasive plants from entering or spreading in Hawai'i effective.

Pests Designated for Control or Eradication. The list in attachment 1 of chapter 4-69A, Hawaii Administrative Rules, "List of Insects, Mites, Other Pests, and Plant Diseases Designated as Pests for Control or Eradication Purposes by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture" was last updated in 2008 and contains 89 taxa, some of which are no longer high-priority invasive species in the State and others are species that can no longer be effectively controlled in all locations. Section 3 of HB2758 HD2 amends section 141-3, HRS, to require HDOA to update the list of species designated as pests for control or eradication once every two years. This will result in the list of pests designated for control or eradication being up to date, likely much shorter, and including only the actual targets for active control or eradication by HDOA. This will clarify which pests are true targets for HDOA control or eradication, including on private property. We note that Hawaii Island has often been overlooked with respect to control or eradication of invasive species and they are overrun with pests other islands hope to keep out. We also note that new, high-impact pests may impact Oahu before reaching other islands. This is the current scenario with the devastating coconut rhinoceros beetle. To protect all the islands from future infestations and account for current infestations, we respectfully suggest the Committee add language on at the end of section 141-3.5(a), HRS, on page 12, line 18, as follows: "The department shall consider that risks posed by a pest may be different for different islands of the State. The department shall consider conditions and impacts to each island in developing and implementing each program required by this subsection."

Nursery Licensing

An important amendment made by HB2758 HD2 is the establishment of a nursery licensing program for plant nurseries in part III, which begins on page 16, line 21. Licensing programs are a sensible approach that has been successfully used by a variety of regulatory agencies in similar forms to streamline regulations and communications, and better manage risk. One of the more familiar frameworks is the Hawai'i Department of Health's restaurant placard program. Currently, HDOA does not require nurseries and entities that sell or offer plants to be licensed or even registered with the department.

Hawai'i urgently needs a program to license and inspect plant nurseries, as high-priority invasive pests such as coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB), coqui frog, and little fire ants (LFA) are spreading across and within islands right now on infested nursery plants. The detection of LFA in the plants donated to the Punahou Carnival earlier this month exemplifies the problem. The plant sale could not begin on time because of the LFA detection and there was no clear way to determine which nursery or business donated the LFA-infested plants. ([Governor's Press Release Feb. 2, 2024](#); [KHON News Feb. 2, 2024](#)) The LFA was detected only because Punahou allowed the Oahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) to check the donated plants before the Carnival. Plants donated to the Carnival have been inspected by OISC or Hawai'i Ant Lab staff every year since LFA were found in a plant that had been purchased at the Carnival in 2019. ([KHON News Mar 2, 2019](#)) This unfortunate situation was big news and reported by many media outlets. The sad truth is that consumers purchase plants infested with LFA every day from the same nurseries that donated plants to the Carnival, unknowingly spreading the pest to their homes and communities. A nursery licensing and inspection program is urgently needed to stop the spread of LFA and other pests via nursery plants.

Nursery licensing programs that allow announced or unannounced inspections without a warrant are common in other states, including Delaware, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Vermont, and Wisconsin. These programs require each nursery business to obtain a license or permit from the state and be subject to compliance inspections without a warrant. HDOA already has the statutory authority to obtain a warrant to enter private property to control or eradicate a pest. (§141-3.6 HRS) However, for a variety of reasons, HDOA has not used that authority to control or eradicate pests on nursery plants and certain "bad actor" nurseries have continued to sell pest-infested plants for years.

Without a nursery licensing program, HDOA lacks the necessary framework to quickly communicate pest alerts, regulatory information, or Best Management Practices (BMPs) with these businesses. However, we are concerned that nursery businesses may oppose this program because of concerns about the development of the program without time to educate themselves about its requirements and implement any requirements or BMPs. To facilitate an orderly roll-out of this program, we respectfully suggest giving HDOA a two-year period to develop and provide BMPs and engage nurseries in pieces of training. This could be done by inserting the following new subsection (b) on page 28, after line 19:

(b) Not later than two years after the effective date of this Act, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture shall adopt rules and implement the plant nursery licensing program established by the amendment made by this section. During those two years, a person may sell nursery stock without a license issued pursuant to that program.

We are also concerned that there may be opposition to the proposed nursery licensing program because HDOA's current list of pests for control or eradication is out of date. As noted above, the "List of Insects, Mites, Other Pests, and Plant Diseases Designated as Pests for Control or Eradication Purposes by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture" (Ch. 4-69A, HAR, Attachment 1) was last updated in 2008 and contains taxa which are no longer high-priority invasive species or that can no longer be effectively controlled in all locations. HB2758 HD2 amends section 141-3, HRS, to require HDOA to update the list of species designated as pests for control or eradication once every two years. This will result in that list of pests being up to date, likely much shorter, and including only the actual targets for active control or eradication by HDOA. However, there is a drafting issue with the definition of "high-priority pest". To clarify the definition and ensure the concerns of each island of the State are considered, we respectfully suggest modifying the definition of "High-priority pest" beginning on page 17, line 15, through page 18, line 5, so that it reads as follows (additions in bold; deletions are struck through text):

"High-priority pest" means a pest, [~~including a noxious weed;~~] **with respect to a location selling nursery stock, that is designated by the department as a high-priority pest for the island where the location is situated. A high-priority pest is a pest:**

(1) That is not known to appear frequently within the State[~~;~~] **or that has limited distribution within the State;**

~~[(2) That has a limited distribution within this State;]~~

~~[(3) That the department or other government entity, attempts to contain, suppress, or reduce within the State including any pest or noxious weed designated by the department;] and~~

~~[(4)]~~ **(2)** Whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

Each pest designated as a pest for control or eradication by the department and each noxious weed designated pursuant to chapter 152 shall be a high-priority pest for an island where that pest is not fully established in all areas of the island.

We further respectfully suggest modifying the language beginning on page 25, line 17 through page 26, line 13, so that it reads as follows (additions in bold):

(1) Shall place a stop sale or quarantine order for the affected nursery stock or **location and mitigate potential spread;**

(2) Shall notify the person applying for or holding the full plant nursery license, temporary plant nursery license, or a small seller plant nursery license for the affected nursery stock or location of the existence of the high-priority pest, low-priority pest, or other compliance issue and advise the person on acceptable mitigation methods; and

(3) **Shall mitigate or shall** require the affected nursery stock, affected material, **and affected location** be mitigated by whatever means necessary, including destruction, confiscation, treatment, return shipment, or quarantine, at the expense of the nursery or person without any form of compensation from the department or State.

Technical And Correcting Amendments

1. We respectfully suggest that the list of pests added to chapter 150A, HRS, by section 8 beginning on page 29, line 1, and ending on page 33, line 2, be omitted. Currently, under the definition of “pest” in section 150A-2, HRS, a species must be designated as a pest by the Board of Agriculture. Unfortunately, the Board does not have a process to designate a species as a pest and has never done so. This has resulted in confusion as to what qualifies as a “pest”. The amendment made to the definition of “pest” on page 41, lines 1 through 9, clarifies the definition of pest and we believe it makes the list of pests set out in the amendment made by section 8 unnecessary.

2. Although the language on page 48, lines 3 through 10 corresponds to a USDA inspection authority, it is not clear why some but not all U.S. Territories are listed. Therefore, we respectfully propose the language below which includes all U.S. Territories (additions in bold):

(A) May conduct inspections of person, baggage, cargo, and any other articles destined for movement between the islands of Hawaii or importation into this State from the continental United States, **American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**, Guam, Puerto Rico, or the United States Virgin Islands for the purpose of determining whether an insect, pest, disease, or regulated or restricted taxa is present;

HB2758 HD2 is a much-needed update for Hawaii’s invasive species protection statutes that will make a meaningful difference in preventing the introduction and spread of harmful and expensive invasive species. Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB2758 HD2 and for consideration of our testimony.

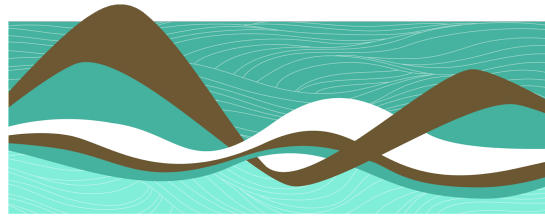
Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



HAWAI'I LAND TRUST

House Committee on Finance

Date: February 22, 2024
Time: 1:00 p.m.
Place: House Conference Room 308
via videoconference

Re: **SUPPORT – HB 2758 HD2, Relating to Agriculture**

Aloha e Luna Ho'omalua Yamashita, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kitagawa, a me nā Lālā o ke Kōmike.

Hawai'i Land Trust **SUPPORTS** HB 2758 HD2, which establishes tools and processes to control and eradicate invasive species and pests. This bill strengthens our biosecurity measures against invasive pests and noxious weeds, safeguarding our ecosystems, cultural heritage, food sources, public health, and economy for current and future generations.

Urgent action is imperative to implement comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs. Communities throughout the islands have proactively addressed invasive species, such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle and little fire ants. These invasive pests pose a significant threat to our ecosystems, agriculture, and overall well-being by endangering native species, disrupting food chains, and destabilizing natural habitats.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) holds an important role in addressing invasive species. We urge the Legislature to equip HDOA with the necessary authority and resources to detect, control, and eradicate harmful pests within and between islands.

I ola ka 'āina, i ola kākou nei. Healthy lands support a thriving community. HB 2758 HD2 is crucial to modernize our biosecurity systems and protect our 'āina and future from the devastating effects of invasive species.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify,

'Olu Campbell
President and Chief Executive Officer



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2024

1:00 PM

Conference Room 308

In **SUPPORT** of **HB2758 HD2**: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB2758 HD2**, which establishes a long-needed, comprehensive biosecurity strategy to protect our environmental, cultural, agricultural, recreational, economic, and quality of life interests from the devastating impacts of invasive species.

Hawai'i's history has given us 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 the little fire ant (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) have caused widespread concern about our ongoing lack of proactive government strategies to detect, control, and eradicate these and other potentially devastating pests. Unfortunately, the lack of regulatory strategies and tools has resulted in the outright infestation of Hawai'i Island by the LFA, and what many consider to be the irreversible establishment of CRB on O'ahu, notwithstanding months and years of grassroots community efforts to stop their spread. As CRB and LFA are now being found on islands where they have not yet been established, filling the gaps in our governmental biosecurity systems is a critical and imminent need if we hope to defend our islands from any more impacts from these and other invasive pest species.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports the much needed, comprehensive biosecurity programs and authorities provided under this measure. Its expedited pest and noxious weed designation processes, control and eradication program mandates,



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

inspection authorities, import restrictions, quarantine requirements, and nursery licensing program are all necessary and vital to avoiding and mitigating the worst impacts of our current and potential future invasive species crises.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:31:29 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kupuna for the Mo'opuna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 2758 HD2

This bill will mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems. This bill will help secure the overall quality of life of present and future generations. Mahalo!



Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



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*Hāwea Heiau Complex
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2024

February 21, 2024

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Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

Hawai'i State House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Meeting on February 22, 2024 at 1 p.m.
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

SUBJECT: STRONG SUPPORT FOR HB2758 HD2

Aloha e Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa & FIN Committee Members,

As an 'āina-based nonprofit with a mission to protect East Honolulu's cultural and natural resources, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui **strongly supports HB2758 HD2.**

Biosecurity must be a top priority in Hawai'i. Its implications are massive, not only for the environment, but the economy, supply chains, sustainability, and resiliency of our people. Furthermore, given Hawai'i's high foot traffic, the results of a biosecurity failure may not only be devastating here, but possibly worldwide.

Our communities have shown a strong and consistent commitment to tackling the problem of invasive pests and noxious weeds, but the sheer scope of the issue demands government action. HB2758 HD2 may not be a panacea, but it represents an incredibly long overdue improvement to our biosecurity systems that we will need if we hope to make a difference.

Mahalo to the entire Committee on Finance for hearing this measure and voting in support of our 'āina.

Mālama pono,

Elizabeth Reilly
Founder/President



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Finance (FIN)
IN SUPPORT OF HB2758 HD2
February 22, 2024, 1:00PM, Room 308 & Via Zoom

We are Olan Leimomi Fisher and Kevin Chang, Kua'āina Advocate and Executive Director, respectively, testifying on behalf of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). “Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo” stands for “grassroots growing through shared responsibility,” and our acronym “KUA” means “backbone.” **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a “backbone organization” that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or “that which feeds”) community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a (“caretakers of fishponds”); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things “limu” or locally-grown “seaweed.” Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as **'āina momona** – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.

KUA strongly supports HB2758 HD2 as an incremental step toward 'āina momona.

This bill provides necessary and urgent solutions to tackle the growing infestation of invasive pests across our islands. Communities we work with are intimately familiar with the impacts that invasive species can have on every aspect of life in Hawai'i—jeopardizing our native ecosystems, food security, cultural practices, public health, fire safety, climate resiliency, economy, and overall quality of life. The impacts from invasive pests and noxious weeds may also be irreversible once they are established, eroding cultural practices and resources that Kānaka Maoli communities are perpetuating and regenerating in furtherance of cultural integrity, food self-sufficiency, and connections to 'āina and each other that will carry us through the difficult times ahead. For example, **we have heard several horrifying stories from our network members of Little Fire Ants hugely impacting their mālama 'āina operations and quality of life both personally and professionally.**

Supporting HB2758 HD2 is imperative. Our Department of Agriculture has little capacity to fulfill its kuleana and build regulatory systems that can meaningfully protect us from the existential, biological threats that our state now faces. Organizations and initiatives in our networks have long dedicated considerable energy and resources to educate and engage their

people and the general public to act in defense of our islands from invasive species. These efforts may continue to be in vain if we do not have the support of government agencies and the vast resources and authorities they exclusively yield.

We implore you to prioritize our biosecurity systems before it is too late. This measure addresses multiple long-standing gaps in invasive species planning and response programs and establishes comprehensive protections against the further introduction and spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds. We cannot afford the “business as usual” status quo – we must take serious steps before things become irreparable for present and future generations. **‘Āina Momona is not achievable without prioritizing the urgent eradication of these invasive pests to best protect our precious biocultural resources and those that care for them.**

Please **PASS** HB2758 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to support this important issue.

Aloha ‘Āina Momona no nā kau ā kau.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 308
Thursday, February 22, 2024 AT 1:00 P.M.**

To The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Finance

COMMENTS ON HB2758 HD2 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **would like to share our COMMENTS on HB2758 HD2.**

The Chamber agrees with the legislature in that invasive species collectively present one of the single greatest threats to Hawaii's economy and natural environment, its native species, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Impacts of invasive species have been severe, negative, and expensive and have included serious habitat degradation, extinction of native species, increased wildfire risk, increases in the cost of agriculture and livestock production, and many other impacts.

We strongly believe one of our biggest challenges in this island state has been the transfer of invasive species with the sale of plants from island to island. This, along with the importation of plants that curtail agricultural inspections, expands opportunities for these invasive species to take hold where mitigation measures can no longer be possible and can change our environment, economy, and social wellbeing. We would like to see funding focused on additional inspectors and reviewing options for quarantining plants prior to shipping interisland to ensure they are not sent with invasive species.

On Maui, we appreciate the work of the Maui Invasive Species Committee and their tremendous efforts in eradicating invasive species. We feel more collaboration between the HDOA and invasive species committees could be helpful. That said, we would like to see the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) keep their control of the invasive species plans and programs but work with the county invasive species committees on specific island concerns. Invasive species committees should be able to submit augmented plans for the HDOA to review and incorporate. Additionally, would like to see the power to enter private property kept with the HDOA, but think the HDOA should provide training to and be able to quickly contract out or deputize the county invasive species committees when urgent action is needed and the HDOA does not have the manpower available to quickly address and mitigate invasive species.

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HB2758 HD2
February 22, 2024
Page 2.

Lastly, we encourage the legislature to work with the nursery, agriculture, and plant industry in the development of some aspects of this bill prior to its passage. We would like to ensure the list of invasive species contains appropriate related actions in terms of quarantines, eradication, etc. We are also concerned with the introduction of a new nursery license and its impacts on businesses. We again see this as an opportunity for the legislature to work with the industry to explore options on licenses and fees and come together on an appropriate accountability program.

For these reasons, we **are providing COMMENTS on HB2758 HD2.**

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:29:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2758 HD2

As someone involved in several aspects of conservation, as well as a practitioner of hana no'eau threatened by invasive species. Invasive species, such as the Little Fire Ant, are or can be major threats to public health, as well as being majorly detrimental to commercial sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, I strongly support this motion to protect the environment of Hawai'i nei from invasive pests.

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 3:48:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2. Earlier this month, little fire ants showed up at the Punahou Carnival. What more do I have to say other than PLEASE pass this critical measure that will help protect our communities and environment. Mahalo!

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 5:16:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. During the 70 years I have lived in Hawaii I have seen many invasive pests and plants exceed efforts to control them. Now the little fire ant and coconut rhinoscerous beetle threaten to change our islands and the way we live here in ways we would hate to see them change.

Please pass this bill.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:26:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kunitake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Caroline Kunitake and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Caroline Kunitake

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:35:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

I am in Strong Support of HB 2758 HD2 that:

"Facilitates the control and eradication of invasive species and pests. Establishes a plant nursery licensing program. Requires the Board of Agriculture to designate certain species as pests for control or eradication. Imposes certain limits on imports and transportation. Updates the method by which the Department's noxious weed list is updated."

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 6:07:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Rozendo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I strongly support HB2758 because this measure will fill critical gaps in Hawai‘i’s biosecurity planning and response systems. It will also help mitigate negative impacts of invasive species on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Even though some communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient support. For example, the HDOA’s failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants, mulch, and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, which has now spread to Maui, Kauai, and Hawai‘i Island. The HDOA’s lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O‘ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these and other invasive species.

We cannot wait for the HDOA to take action to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication strategies, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now.

This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting the Hawaiian Islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,
Hannah Rozendo, Kurtistown, Hawai‘i Island

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:04:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Carter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Paul Carter of Waihe'e, Maui and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:11:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Pence	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Deborah Pence and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:21:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica dos Santos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the esteemed members of the Hawai‘i Legislature,

As a concerned citizen of Hawai‘i who deeply values its natural resources, ecosystems, and indigenous food ways, I urge you to lend your support to HB2758. This crucial bill presents a vital opportunity to address the pressing issue of invasive species that pose a significant threat to our beloved islands.

Invasive species represent a dire menace to the delicate balance of Hawai‘i's environment. The presence of pests like the little fire ant (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) not only jeopardizes our agricultural sector and food production but also undermines cultural practices, recreational activities, public health, and the local economy in regions where they have taken hold.

Despite our best efforts, existing regulatory frameworks have left substantial gaps in our ability to effectively combat invasive species. HB2758 HD2 offers a comprehensive solution to this pressing challenge by establishing measures to facilitate the control and eradication of invasive species and pests.

The bill's provisions, including the establishment of a plant nursery licensing program and the designation of certain species as pests for control or eradication by the Department of Agriculture, are crucial steps towards safeguarding our natural heritage. Furthermore, HB2758 imposes necessary limits on imports and transportation while updating the method by which the Department's noxious weed list is managed.

By supporting HB2758, we demonstrate our commitment to preserving Hawai‘i's unique ecosystems, protecting indigenous food ways, and securing the well-being of our communities for generations to come. I implore you to prioritize the passage of this critical legislation for the betterment of our beloved state.

Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this matter.

Warmest regards,

Jessica dos Santos

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:23:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Lyerly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am Linda Lyerly, I live in Lahaina and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:27:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members:

Born and raised in Kaupakalua, Maui, with family members who ranched and farmed, I understand the critical importance of H.B. 2758 H.D.2 to comprehensively facilitate the control and eradication of invasive species.

Please pass this measure!

Mahalo,

Carrie Ann Shirota

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:30:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Marilyn Mick and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA’s failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai‘i Island. The HDOA’s lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O‘ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:35:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Harter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nancy Harter and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:02:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Craig Tanaka and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:11:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jim Albertini	Malu 'Aina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I've been a farmer on the Big Island for over 40 years and know firsthand the increasing difficulty posed by invasive species. We need strong action now to prevent invasive species from entering Hawaii and to support food self-sufficiency in Hawaii. My neighbors who have operated a fruit tree nursery here for nearly 50 years have lost hope in urging control of invasive species. Please restore hope for all of Hawaii. Mahalo.

Jim Albertini, president of Malu 'Aina

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:38:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawai‘i, and wildlife biologist who has worked in invasive species control and prevention, I am in **support of HB 2758**. It is important for the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs), and the Hawai‘i Ant Lab (HAL) be able to address priority invasive species in a timely manner. Approving this bill will significantly increase the potential of HDOA, the ISCs, and HAL to address invasive species like Little Fire Ant (LFA) more quickly and efficiently when they are found in areas around the State of Hawai‘i.

Currently the HDOA has the mandate to protect Hawai‘i from the impacts of invasive species but they lack the rules to allow them to stop the sale of goods that are themselves invasive species or are infested with invasive species like HAL or Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB). This bill, if approved, would give HDOA the ability to stop the sale of these infested goods. By doing so, this would significantly reduce the spread of these priority invasive species and protect both consumers and related commerce that could be impacted by the spread of these invasive species.

Just ask people on Hawai‘i Island what impact LFA is having on their lives. In many places, agriculture workers have a difficult time harvesting without getting stung by LFA raining down on them from the trees and covering them with painful stings. People can no longer enjoy going to some parks without the threat of LFA making the trip one filled with stinging ants. Even people's pets and farm animals are going blind because the LFA repeatedly sting their eyes causing them to cloud over. These are just a few examples of how LFA is impacting Hawai‘i Island residents now. LFA is not established on all parts of every island in the State. If HDOA, ISCs, and HAL can prevent the spread of LFA to areas where they are not, and also quickly work to control and eradicate them where they are new, this would prevent significant harm to all residents and businesses of Hawai‘i and visitors to our islands.

For the above reasons, **I urge you to support HB 2758.**

Mahalo,
Patrick Chee

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:04:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meagan ostrem	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meagan Ostrem and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Immediate action is needed before some of these invasive species take further hold in our communities. The threat presented by little fire ant alone is terrifying. The spread of this invasive species could have been avoided had the proper controls been in place with sufficient government oversight and support. Our communities, children, pets and way of life are threatened. Our community is frustrated by the lack of sufficient government support including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). I have attended public meetings where ordinary citizens are doing their best to help control the invasive species, however without wide spread support and action we will not make the progress needed. A whole of community and government approach is necessary at this time.

Another important point to consider is the devastating effects these invasive species are having and will continue to have on the tourism industry. With the millions of dollars spent by the state on tourism, the government should understand the necessity of funding to protect the environment and experience of visitors as well. All islands are at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

mahalo

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:12:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vinayak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Dr. Vinayak and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the interisland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:34:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Diane Ware from Moku o Ka'u and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:50:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Barbara Barry from Maui and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:18:19 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to voice my strong support for HB 2758 HD2, hoping that this will compel the Dept of Agriculture to ramp up efforts to stop the spread of invasive pests. *Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries, and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now.*

When fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles or coqui frogs are found at garden centers or nurseries, the plants or products infested absolutely MUST be taken off the shelves and quarantined until treatment to eradicate these pests can be performed. We can't rely on these businesses to do this on their own. Few do.

Years ago I was unwittingly one of the first people to introduce coqui frogs to Manoa valley. I had just brought home a plant from Home Depot that I had no idea had one it it until later that night we heard the incessant calling of the coqui out our window. Authorities were able to find the frog in my next door neighbors hedge. We tracked that frog to the plants I had purchased the day before, which had just come in from the Big Island.

Thankfully Manoa missed becoming the next host to the screeching coqui chorus. I don't want to imagine the repercussions if it had been infested with fire ants. I would probably have to quit gardening, or ever again entertaining on my lanai.

And what tree more symbolizes the islands than our gently swaying coconut trees, which have been wiped out on other Pacific islands that didn't get ahead of the coconut rhinoceros beetle.

Our response to this must be as stringent and relentless as our response to stopping the spread of covid was. I grew up in Hawaii, and love that I can be outdoors year round swimming, hiking, hanging with friends.

All that could be wiped out on account of just three pests!!! If they continue to slip through these containment cracks, the Hawaii I love could become instead a backwater that both tourists and residents have abandoned, fed up with fighting painful stings all day, and screeching frogs all night. And a shoreline barren of swaying palms

When DOH finds a restaurant infested with bugs that restaurant is flagged and shut down until the problem is resolved. It should be the same for nurseries.

There is no time to waste. Please pass the bill.

Thank you

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:32:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA’s failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai‘i Island. The HDOA’s lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O‘ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:49:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2758 HD2 as we need to ensure protection of our Island Ecosystem from harmful invasives.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:55:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Peter Wilson and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:56:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Bo Breda and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:39:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kākou,

Mahalo for making the time to focus on this very important problem and opportunity to truly make a difference in the outcomes of invasive species impacting our communities. I am Kimeona Kane, I am in strong support of HB 2758 HD2 and I wish to share written testimony regarding it.

When I purchased plants from a Waimānalo Nursery, I did not think that I would have had my first hand experience with Little Fire Ants. I was fortunate to have had the Hawai‘i Ant Lab and Oahu Invasive Species Committee in my community prior and was confident in my ability to follow their recommendations. In the initial hours following my purchase, I went from quarantine, to contacting 843 PEST, to discover that they knew exactly where I purchased from, knew that the Nursery had an infestation, and knew that plants were being sold and moved around the island. The Hawai‘i Ant Lab sent a staffer to my home, and he confirmed that the plants in question, indeed tested positive for Little Fire Ants. Upon contacting the nursery to report it to them, they too, acknowledged knowing that they had an ant problem. Although they offered to swap my plants out, I opted for a refund and demanded answers. Why were these plants able to leave? Why were these concerns being overlooked? How could this nursery and 843 PEST know and continue to allow movement? I learned soon thereafter that the agencies who were responsible, including the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, Hawai‘i Ant Lab and O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee were literally operating on fumes from under funded and under resourced programs.

Passing HB2758 HD2 shrinks the gaps allowing our community, and others, breathing room and time to comprehend the total impacts that could be felt if we continue to see government lack the courage to challenge industries on principal and integrity. Our communities deserve better.

Please pass this item and support the efforts and pathway towards eradication, which should be the only option.

Mahalo for your time and service,
Kimeona Kane

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:51:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Toma Shiira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2758 HD2

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 4:12:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam Scott Wayson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Invasive pests are slowly taking over this island, and if we have any hope of saving our palm tree population, native and introduced, we need to do something to actively eliminate rhinoceros beetles from these islands.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 4:35:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Nihipali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Michele Nihipali and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Michele Nihipali

54-074 A Kam Hwy.

Hauula, HI 96717

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 5:13:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise fa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I support this bill. We needed to something 10 years ago. I born and raised haleiwa and I can see the damage is is doing to all the coconut 🌴 trees in our small town of Haleiwa. The two native palms in front of Haleiwa and infected. They were planted over 50 plus years. We need to do something and fast.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:05:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrice Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for advancing this bill and I hope that once it is implemented it will help to build and sustain our fight to protect our precious 'aina.

HB2758 HD2:

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

My name is Patti Choy and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are now taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA's failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai'i Island. The HDOA's lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O'ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these and other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 9:05:55 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nathan Leo Braulick and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems, and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests and noxious weeds on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

While communities across the islands are taking action to detect, control, and eradicate pests in their neighborhoods, these efforts have been frustrated by a lack of sufficient government support, including and particularly from the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). For example, the HDOA’s failure to prohibit the intransland movement and sale of infested plants and other commodities has likely contributed to the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, which has now spread to Maui and Hawai‘i Island. The HDOA’s lack of comprehensive planning and programming to detect and control or eradicate invasive pests and noxious weeds is now confounding efforts to stop the spread of little fire ants across O‘ahu, and leaves all islands at risk of experiencing the devastating consequences of these or other invasive species.

We simply can no longer wait for the HDOA to take the actions we need to comprehensively address the real and present threat of invasive pests and noxious weeds. Comprehensive detection, control, and eradication programs, including the licensing of nurseries and regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive pests and noxious weeds, are needed now. This measure will help to bring our biosecurity systems into the 21st century, and give our communities a much better chance at protecting our islands and future generations from the wide-ranging harms of invasive pest species.

Accordingly, I respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB2758 HD2. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:15:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Harman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michele Harman and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB2758 HD2.

The negative impacts of invasive species are often in our news and potentially more harmful species will arrive. We urgently need government support for a comprehensive system that includes strong detection, control, and eradication programs. This includes the licensing of nurseries as well as regulatory mechanisms to prevent the import and inter- and intra-island spread of invasive species.

This measure will fill critical gaps in our biosecurity planning and response systems and mitigate the present and future potential impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life for present and future generations.

As someone who loves these islands and works in natural resource management and environmental education, I respectfully and strongly urge the Committee to please PASS HB2758 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. Aloha, michele

HB-2758-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 10:29:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support this bill, which is vital to the land and its people. Put these first in your actions, NOT your self-interest!