

**Testimony of the Pest Control Board**  
**Before the**  
**House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**  
**10:16 a.m.**  
**Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**  
**S.B. 1100, S.D. 2, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Lei Ana Green, and I am the Executive Officer of the Pest Control Board (Board). The Board will review this bill at its next publicly noticed meeting on March 24, 2025, and for now offers the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) rename the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department); (2) establish a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; (3) require the Department to establish an emergency response team to respond to biosecurity events; (4) authorize the Department to establish transitional facilities; (5) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals; (6) require inspection of various items transported interisland; (7) increase penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; (8) require the Department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; (9) authorize pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests; (10) transfer the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department; (11) authorize the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; (12) authorize the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; and (13) appropriate funds.

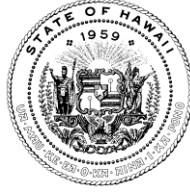
Committee Report SSCR652 states the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary believe the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) is better suited to carry out the licensing of private inspectors, due to existing licensing schemes and enforcement mechanisms in place for Pest Control Operators pursuant to

chapter 460J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Board has concerns regarding the appropriateness of the responsibility for training of licensees as they are outside the Board's expertise, scope, and jurisdiction. The Board does not provide training for any of the licenses it issues. The scope and training requirements of biosecurity inspectors is an area of expertise that is under the purview of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The DOA is the authority as the lead agency on biosecurity efforts in the State and has the appropriate resources, including but not limited to established inspector training programs and protocols. Thus, the DOA would appear to be appropriate agency for the training of biosecurity inspectors, as proposed in S.B. 1100.

Should the Committee be inclined to pass this measure, the Board respectfully requests additional time to collaborate with the DOA to create an appropriate licensing scheme including scope of practice, license requirements, and regulation of biosecurity inspectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I**  
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**DEAN I HAZAMA**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

## **Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs**

### **Before the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems**

**Wednesday, March 12, 2025**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Conference Room 325 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:**

**S.B. 1100, S.D. 2, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department). The Department offers the following comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) rename the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department); (2) establish a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; (3) require the Department to establish an emergency response team to respond to biosecurity events; (4) authorize the Department to establish transitional facilities; (5) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals; (6) require inspection of various items transported interisland; (7) increase penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; (8) require the Department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; (9) authorize pest management plans to address,

contain, or eradicate pests; (10) transfer the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department; (11) authorize the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; (12) authorize the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; and (13) appropriate funds.

Committee Report SSCR652 states the Senate Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary believe the Department is better suited to carry out the licensing of private inspectors, due to existing licensing schemes and enforcement mechanisms in place for Pest Control Operators pursuant to chapter 460J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The Department has concerns regarding the appropriateness of the responsibility for training of licensees as they are outside the Pest Control Board's (Board) expertise, scope, and jurisdiction. The Board does not provide training for any of the licenses it issues. The scope and training requirements of biosecurity inspectors is an area of expertise that is under the purview of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The DOA is the authority as the lead agency on biosecurity efforts in the State and has the appropriate resources, including but not limited to established inspector training programs and protocols. Thus, the DOA would appear to be appropriate agency for the training of biosecurity inspectors, as proposed in S.B. 1100.

The Board respectfully requests additional time to collaborate with the DOA to create an appropriate licensing scheme including scope of practice, license requirements, and regulation of biosecurity inspectors.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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### VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## House Committee on AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of  
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

### In consideration of SENATE BILL 1100 SENATE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 1100 Senate Draft 2 carries out a number of actions with the intention of improving biosecurity through the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. The Council appreciates the comprehensive approach to improve biosecurity in Hawai'i with broadening the scope of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture with the addition of "biosecurity", highlighting the need for transitional facilities and inspectors. Also included in this measure is the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council being moved under the Department of Agriculture with language on page 73 Part VII that states "There is established the invasive species council within the department of agriculture and biosecurity..." and the Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity oversees all the State's biosecurity initiatives including chapter 194 (the HISC statute and the Council's administration changes from the Department of Land & Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) provides comments on this measure.**

The Council supports efforts to enhance Hawaii's biosecurity and safeguard the State from invasive species. Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 194 was adopted by the Legislature in 2003, through Act 85, SLH 2003 to "coordinate efforts among state departments and other stakeholders to prevent, control, and manage invasive species in Hawaii." Pursuant to HRS 194-2(a), "HISC operates independently in terms of its functions and decision making, DLNR provides administrative support, such as budgeting and staffing assistance." In addition, HRS 194-2(b) provides that DLNR and DOA co-chair HISC.

The Council supports retaining HISC under its current statutory structure and that administration continues through the Department of Land & Natural Resources and further recommends that the directors of the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Agriculture work collaboratively to ensure invasive species priorities for the state are being properly addressed through the forum of the HISC. Some recommendations on how to enhance coordination and implementation of efforts to achieve HISC's statutory authority are provided below. The Council suggests that the implementation of these actions and overall effectiveness of the HISC be evaluated in 2030. If a transition of administration is determined to be needed, a comprehensive transition plan needs to be developed to ensure that there is no loss of staff or gaps in invasive species efforts for HISC programs and funding.

- The Co-Chairs of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council meet every month to discuss invasive species issues and priorities and prepare a draft agenda for upcoming Council meetings.

- Create a separate LNR account solely for HISC funding,
- Increase the minimum number of Council meetings per year from two to four with one meeting being dedicated to the allocation of HISC funding and one to develop Biosecurity Legislative Packages prior to the State Legislative Session.

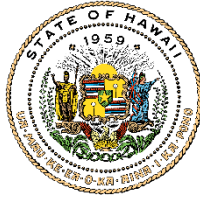
Currently the HISC provides over \$4 million in state funds every year to support interagency projects and programs that prevent and manage invasive species across the State and helps to identify other funding opportunities to leverage existing funds. The DLNR administers the Council and provides fiscal and staffing support to help move funding and houses the program manager position that supports the Council. HISC also provides critical programs that are staffed by RCUH employees: Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, 643PEST.org, and the Port of Entry Monitoring (PoEM) program.

As of last week, the PoEM program intercepted three live, adult Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle at the Kona International Airport and a rapid response was coordinated through the HISC. These programs and staff are critical to Hawaii's biosecurity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

9:00AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1100, SENATE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 1100, Senate Draft 2 proposes to expand and restructure the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) biosecurity efforts, including renaming HDOA to add "Biosecurity"; establishing a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; establishing an emergency response team; establishing transitional facilities; requiring inspection of items transported interisland; increasing penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; establishing government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; authorizing pest management plans; authorizing rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; and authorizing assessment of administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program. Requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals. Transfers the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to the new HDOA. Appropriates funds. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department supports efforts to strengthen biosecurity and the effort to strengthen HDOA's biosecurity function. However, we urge the Legislature to maintain the Council as a standalone, collaborative, six-agency body to ensure that it remains operational, effective, and adequately funded and administered by the Department. Effective prevention, management, and mitigation of invasive species impacts requires continuity of attention, responsiveness, and cohesive action. Interruptions in active management can cause setbacks or worsen environmental conditions. The work is continuous because the threats are continuous.

Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 194, enacted through Act 85, SLH 2003, was established to “coordinate efforts among state departments and other stakeholders to prevent, control, and manage invasive species in Hawaii.” Under this framework, HISC functions independently in decision-making, with the Department supporting administrative needs. In addition, HRS 194-2(b) provides that DLNR and DOA co-chair HISC. The Council brings together State agencies that would typically not collaborate on operational programs. While this bill contemplates expanding the authority of DOA in biosecurity, the Department supports retaining HISC under its current statutory structure to coordinate and implement the interagency biosecurity plan.

The Department supports HISC proposed recommended actions to enhance HISC’s ability to fulfill the purpose of Chapter 194, HRS. including the following administrative changes:

- The Co-Chairs of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council meet monthly to discuss invasive species issues and priorities and prepare a draft agenda for upcoming Council meetings.
- Create a separate LNR ID account solely for HISC funding.
- Increase the minimum number of Council meetings per year from two to four, with one meeting dedicated to allocating HISC funding and one to developing Biosecurity Legislative Packages prior to the State Legislative Session. Additional meetings can be scheduled as needed.
- In addition, additional funding to HISC to increase staffing and resources to support the prevention, control and management of invasive species in Hawaii.

The Department continues to support HISC as an independent council whose role is to coordinate State agencies to prevent, control and manage invasive species in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Philip Williams

Acting Dean

College of Natural Sciences

And

Michael Bruno, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

#### SB 1100 SD2 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1100 SD2 and offers comments regarding this measure.

Part IX (Section 36) All rights, powers, functions, and duties of the invasive species council are transferred from the department of land and natural resources to the department of agriculture and biosecurity.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (the Council), which coordinates efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate harmful invasive species in Hawai'i, is a collaborative body made up of six agencies: the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the University of Hawai'i (UH), the Department of Health, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Department of Transportation. The Council operates under a shared framework, guided by the Interagency Biosecurity Plan, and is co-chaired by both HDOA and DLNR Chairs. Additionally, an interagency MOU between HDOA, DLNR, and UH outlines their cooperation on preventing and managing high-priority pests. Given that the Council is already co-chaired by both HDOA and DLNR, and that there is a well-established MOU between these agencies and UH, along with the need for continued responsiveness without interruption in active research and management of invasive species, we ask that the Council continue to be administered under DLNR and to keep its interagency character and purpose.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025**  
**9:00 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1100, SD2**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1100, SD2, relating to biosecurity. This bill renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish an emergency response team to respond to biosecurity events; authorizes the department to establish transitional facilities and private inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals; requires inspection of various items transported interisland; increases penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; requires the department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; authorizes pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests; transfers the Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; authorizes the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to adopt rules to establish and enforce the plant care component program; authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; and appropriates moneys.



The Department is in support of this measure, and offers comments and suggested changes. The Department appreciates the emphasis on biosecurity as reflected by renaming the Department of Agriculture and Board of Agriculture to include “and Biosecurity” as part of the respective titles and making the same changes throughout the HRS, including permanent funding of the positions that were created under Act 231, SLH 2024. Section 19 of this bill further emphasizes biosecurity by establishing a new position with funding within the Department for a Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity through a new section of HRS 141, further enabling the Department to maintain biosecurity activities.

The Department is appreciative of the distinction between the licensed biosecurity inspectors and the existing Plant Quarantine Branch Inspector series. On Page 43, beginning on line 16, regarding the use of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA) as the licensing agency for the biosecurity inspectors, the Department is concerned that it is completely omitted from this entire section, noting that DCCA does not have any expertise as it relates to the identification of pests or operational procedures should a pest be detected. To address this and create consistency with the new section HRS 150A-E, the Department suggests the following changes to ensure biosecurity issues are addressed properly. On page 44, beginning on line 1, the Department suggests the following changes:

- (1) The detection and identification of diseases, infections, infestations, and other ~~[subjects]~~ pests that the department ~~[of commerce and consumer affairs]~~ deems relevant; and
- (2) Procedures following the detection or identification of a disease, infection, infestation, or other ~~[subject]~~ pest that the department ~~[of commerce and consumer affairs]~~ deems relevant.

Because the Department is not managing the licensure of the biosecurity inspectors, the Department has no way of knowing who is licensed for a particular transitional facility and how many individuals are licensed in each transitional facility. The Department suggests the addition of a new subsection to HRS 150A-D to address this:

(h) The department of commerce and consumer affairs shall provide the department of agriculture with access to all information related to licensed biosecurity inspectors, including those that previously held a license, but do not currently have a valid license.

~~[(h)]~~ (i) The department of commerce and consumer affairs shall adopt rules under chapter 91 for purposes of this section.

In conjunction with the changes to the licensure of biosecurity inspectors from the Department to the DCCA, the Department suggests inclusion of a new subsection to HRS 150A-C to enable DCCA to know who has a valid transitional facility license so they can implement their biosecurity inspector licensing program:

(e) The department of agriculture shall provide the department of commerce and consumer affairs a list of all transitional facility licenses, including any necessary information, to appropriately license biosecurity inspectors pursuant HRS 150A-E.

Alternatively, the creation of a professional board, such as the Pest Control Board pursuant to HRS 460J, would appear to address the aforementioned issues of licensing content or notification between the agencies as the Department would presumably be a member of the newly created board and would communicate directly with DCCA enabling both agencies to obtain the necessary information to implement this section.



The Department appreciates the proposed changes to HRS 150A-8 contained in section 27 of this measure, clarifying the specific commodities that are subject to inspections and clarifying when an inspection may occur.

Regarding the creation of the new section HRS 150A-F regarding government-industry agreements for readiness and response, starting on page 70, line 20, the Department suggests some changes for clarification including changes to HRS 150A-F(b)(2)(B) to ensure minimization of impacts to agricultural industries; removing “overseas” as this generally refers to foreign countries and access to U.S. mainland markets should also be accommodated; and changing all references of “unwanted organisms” to “insects, diseases, pests, or other organisms not known to occur in the State” as listed below:

- (b) The agreements shall include:
  - (1) Readiness activities that:
    - (A) Prevent ~~[unwanted organisms]~~ insects, diseases, pests, or other organisms not known to occur in the State, from entering the State; and
    - (B) Detect ~~[unwanted organisms]~~ insects, diseases, pests, or other organisms not known to occur in the State; and
  - (2) Response activities that:
    - (A) Facilitate the immediate investigation of an ~~[unwanted organism]~~ insect, disease, pest, or other organism not known to occur in the State, after detection, including timely reporting;
    - (B) Minimize the impact of the ~~[unwanted organism]~~ insect, disease, pest, or other organism not known to occur in the State, on agricultural industries, natural and physical resources, human health, and ~~[overseas]~~ market access for Hawaii products;

- (C) Control the spread of an [~~unwanted organism~~] insect, disease, pest, or other organism not known to occur in the State;
- (D) Reduce the geographical distribution of an [~~unwanted organism~~] insect, disease, pest, or other organism not known to occur in the State;  
and
- (E) Eradicate the [~~unwanted organism~~] insect, disease, pest, or other organism not known to occur in the State.

Regarding the new section HRS 150A-G on page 72, beginning on line 1, regarding the creation of an invasive species dashboard, while the Department agrees with the intent, parts of this section appear to overlap with some of the existing requirements in HRS 141-3.5(d). For clarity, the Department suggests that HRS 141-3.5(d)(2), (3), and (4) be incorporated into this section with the use of a real-time dashboard for the information, or place HRS 150A-G into 141-3.5(d) with the use of a real-time dashboard.

On Page 72, Line 17, the Department supports the intent of the proposed HRS 150A-H regarding Pest management plans as this section seeks to provide a process that would enable anyone to potentially deem a specific organism as a pest and to vet specific management plans for said pest. However, the Department has some concerns that this section would conflict with 4-69, HAR and would require the Department's Plant Quarantine Branch to implement and maintain a control or eradication program pursuant to HRS 141-3.5, for each pest designated in this manner. On page 74, line 8, the Department also suggests the inclusion of a review by the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (Committee). Pursuant to HRS150A-10, the Committee "shall advise and assist the department in developing or revising laws and regulations to carry out and effectuate the purposes of this chapter. . .". The proposed change is as follows:

(c) At a public hearing, after review and recommendation by the advisory committee on plants and animals, the board shall approve the proposed plan, deny the proposed plan, or approve the proposed plan with modifications.

Regarding the placement of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) within the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity for administrative purposes, the Department defers to the Legislature as to where HISC should ultimately be placed for the most effective use of its allocated resources and would like to emphasize the importance of HISC's coordination efforts between the respective agencies that HISC is comprised of.

The Department is in strong support of the funding for the positions contained in Act 231, SLH 2024, as this was an important milestone in cementing biosecurity as an investment priority for the State. Continued funding of these 44 positions in the Department's Plant Quarantine, Plant Pest Control, and Pesticides Branches enables the Department to increase its ability to manage the introduction and spread of pests; ensure that pesticide use is safe and appropriate for public health and safety; and implement and maintain eradication, control, management, and biocontrol projects for existing pests across the State. The proposed increases in Plant Quarantine Branch staff for prevention and the plant care component program are also critical for the State's overall biosecurity efforts.

Lastly, the Department is extremely appreciative of the phased implementation of the measures contained within this bill, enabling the Department to create the educational pathways to hire, train, and retain a large number of qualified individuals for the added positions, and to create the necessary rules for program implementation of the emergency response program, transitional facilities, and plant care component programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1100, SD2**  
**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice-Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1100, SD2**, which renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity, and enhances the state's biosecurity capabilities through strengthened policies, enforcement mechanisms, and funding.

Invasive species are among the greatest threats to Hawai'i's environment, agriculture, and economy. Each year, new pests such as the coffee berry borer, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, two-lined spittlebug, rose-ringed parakeet, varroa mite, and rapid 'ōhi'a death threaten local food production, native ecosystems, and public health. Once established, these pests are costly and difficult to control. A strong biosecurity program is essential to prevent new invasive species from entering the state and manage those already here.

Providing the necessary authority, funding, and personnel to enhance biosecurity measures will improve the state's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to invasive species before they cause irreversible damage. Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers depend on a healthy agricultural environment to sustain their operations, and effective biosecurity is critical to protecting local food production, safeguarding natural resources, and reducing the economic costs of invasive species management.

We urge the committee to pass SB 1100, SD2 to strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity efforts and better protect the state from invasive threats. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00 a.m. Conference Room 325  
State Capitol

### **Testimony Providing Comments on SB 1100 SD2**

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 1100 SD2, *Relating to Biosecurity*.

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) appreciates the Legislature's continued focus on invasive species. During the 2024 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed Act 231, landmark funding for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) biosecurity efforts. SB 1100 continues this momentum by providing new approaches to biosecurity in Hawaii and even proposes renaming HDOA as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (HDOAB). It is critically important to invest in HDOA's efforts to carry out their statutory responsibilities related to invasive species. After decades of lower funding amounts for HDOA's capacity and activities related to invasive species, we note that HDOA has a lot of work ahead to rebuild and modernize its invasive species program.<sup>1</sup>

CGAPS offers the following comments on this bill:

#### **Removal of autonomy and interagency character of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

Part VII of SB1100 SD2 (beginning on p. 74, line 19) moves the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC or Council) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to HDOAB and the amendment made by section 19 (beginning on p. 22, line 15) places HISC and any biosecurity initiative of any department of the State under the oversight of HDOAB's Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity.

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<sup>1</sup> For instance, HDOA's administrative rules relating to invasive species are out of date. HDOA's rules related to noxious weeds and the list of noxious weeds were last updated in 1992. (HAR Ch. 4-68). The list of pests designated for control or eradication was last updated in 2008. (HAR Ch. 4-69A Attachment 1) Section 141-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires HDOA to develop and implement a control or eradication program for each designated pest, using the best available technology. To date, HDOA has not developed a program for any designated pest.

HISC is comprised of the chairs or directors of HDOA, DLNR, Department of Health (HDOH), Department of Transportation (HDOT), Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), and the President of the University of Hawaii (UH), or their designees, for the purpose of “providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State.” (HRS 194-2) HISC is co-chaired by the Chairperson of HDOA and the Chairperson of DLNR. It is an independent council, guided by its co-chairs, and is attached to DLNR for administrative purposes only. (HRS 194-2(b))

Each State entity on the HISC has specific responsibilities for preventing and responding to invasive species. For example, HDOA’s authorities prevent pests from entering Hawaii from other states and spreading interisland. HDOH surveys and monitors for and controls invasive vectors and pathogens that affect public health. UH, among other things, carries out research and development on detection and control methods and adaptive management techniques. DLNR has the authority to regulate biofouling and ballast water to prevent the introduction of aquatic invasive species and performs control and eradication actions for aquatic invasive species and for terrestrial invasive species on conservation lands. Demoting the Council to a part of HDOAB overseen by a Deputy of HDOAB defeats its interagency character, purpose, and mandate. The purpose of this demotion is unclear. It is also unclear if or how this shift might affect the annual competitive grants program that supports projects statewide and HISC staff functions such as the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment specialist. It is also unclear how a Deputy in HDOAB could “oversee” biosecurity initiatives of other State departments. Each department head should have control over the planning, budgeting, and execution of its own biosecurity actions without having to report to a Deputy at HDOAB.

**We respectfully request this Committee preserve the HISC as an independent Council, guided by its co-chairs and members, and administratively attached to DLNR and allow each department of the State to carry out its own biosecurity initiatives by:**

1. Striking Part VII.
2. Striking sections 36 and 37 (transferring powers, duties, and property of HISC to HDOAB)
3. Beginning on page 22, line 18, through page 23, line 2, amending the text to read as follows:

**“§141- Deputy chairperson of biosecurity; established.** (a) There is established within the department a deputy chairperson for biosecurity. The deputy chairperson for biosecurity shall oversee all of the ~~State’s~~ department’s biosecurity initiatives, including programs under chapters 142 and 150A, ~~and 194~~ and sections 141-5, 261-4.5, and 266-21.5.”

### **Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity**

Part III of SB 1100 SD2 contains confusing and conflicting language. Section 19 (beginning on p. 22, line 15) creates a new Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity (DCB) who is “appointed by the governor.” (p.23, line 5) Section 20 (beginning on p. 23, line 6) creates “two additional deputies or assistants, either in charge of agriculture or biosecurity or other functions within [HDOAB]” who are “assigned” by the Chairperson of HDOAB “with the approval of the governor.” (p.30, line 18 through p. 31, line 3) These two additional positions would be exempt from Hawaii’s civil service law and would not require a public hearing or the advice and consent of the Senate. It is unclear to us what the responsibilities of these two new positions would be and how they relate to the new DCB. Considering the DCB’s critical responsibilities, it seems appropriate that the Governor should appoint the DCB and other positions within HDOAB should be selected through civil service hiring.

**To address these concerns, we respectfully request this Committee clarify that only one new position is being created by:**

1. Amending page 23, lines 3 through 5, to read as follows:

“(b) The deputy chairperson for biosecurity shall be a deputy to the chairperson of the board of agriculture and biosecurity and be appointed, without regard to chapter 76, by the governor.”

2. Striking section 20.

### **Removal of authority to regulate movement of pests within an island under ch 150A HRS**

We sincerely hope this Committee will modify section 27 of SB1100 SD2 to restore HDOAB’s ability to make rules under chapter 150A HRS to regulate the movement of pests between islands and within an island. (beginning on p. 59, line 5)

The current text of section 150A-8 HRS is:

**“§150A-8 Transporting in State.** Flora and fauna specified by rules and regulations of [HDOA] shall not be moved from one island to another island within the State or **from one locality to another on the same island** except by a permit issued by the department.” (emphasis added)

This is the authority for HDOAB to adopt permanent rules to regulate the movement of pests or pest-infested material within a single island. Without this authority, it will be much more difficult for HDOAB to carry out any regulatory program to suppress pests such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle on a single island.<sup>2</sup> **The proposed bill language in SB1100 SD2 deletes the**

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<sup>2</sup> Section 141-2(2), HRS, authorizes HDOA to make rules governing the transportation of live plants and animals and certain agricultural products between different locations of any one island of the State. However, having similar

existing language of section 150A-8, which removes the authority for the recently adopted amendments to chapter 72, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), removes those amendments from HDOA, Plant Quarantine Branch's (PQB) biosecurity authorities, and will make it more difficult for PQB to issue a penalty for violations, including selling pest-infested merchandise to the public. Instead of deleting this authority, we believe these intra-state authorities should explicitly apply to materials that carry pests and not just the pests themselves.

**SB1100 SD2 unfairly makes it more difficult for Hawaii agricultural products to compete with imports**

As discussed above, section 27 of SB1100 SD2 (beginning on p. 59, line 5) deletes the current language of section 150A-8 HRS, but what SB1100 SD2 inserts in its place will make it more difficult for agricultural producers in Hawaii to compete with agricultural products imported from other states. The new language contains detailed requirements for the inter-island movement of nursery plants, cut flowers, fruits, and other agricultural items that are very similar to the inspection and labeling requirements for importing those items into the State under section 150A-5 HRS. However, SB100 SD2 is actually **more restrictive for the movement of these items between islands than for importation into the State.**

The language proposed to be inserted by section 27 would require someone who, for instance, is shipping agricultural products, such as fruit or cut flowers, from Big Island where they were grown to Oahu for sale to:

- (1) Ensure the fruit or flowers are inspected by HDOAB prior to movement between islands, providing at the inspector's request the waybill number, container number, name and address of the consignor, name and address of the consignee or consignee's agent, marks, number of packages, description of the contents of each package, and any other information that may be necessary to inspect, locate, or identify the products, and receive a certification of that inspection; and
- (2) Label, in a conspicuous manner and place, each container in which the products are transported with the name and address of the shipper or owner, with the name and address of the shipper or owner forwarding or shipping the products, the name or mark of the person to whom the products are forwarded or shipped or the person's agent and a statement of the contents of the container.

**Failure to obtain the certification of inspection or properly label the container is subject to a criminal misdemeanor penalty under section 150A-14(a) HRS, whereas a similar failure for someone importing fruit or cut flowers from out of state is only a civil penalty. (see SB1100 SD2, p. 66, lines 10-15)**

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authorities in chapter 150A HRS allows HDOAB to include intra-island programs within its biosecurity program and makes violations subject to penalties under section 150A-14 HRS.



Even more confusing to us is the new language added to the SD2 version of SB1100 that **requires**<sup>3</sup> an inspector with “good cause” to believe that any provision of chapter 150A HRS is being violated, with respect to inter-island movement, to conduct an inspection of any item and, again, imposes a criminal penalty if any pest or item infested with an insect or disease is found. We note that identical language appears in paragraph (5) of section 150A-5 HRS beginning on page 52, line 3, through page 54, line 3, of SB1100 SD2, even with respect to inspection of items “moving between islands of the State” (p. 53, lines 18-19), except that language authorizes, but **does not require**, the inspections and does not impose a criminal penalty on importers. This creates two inconsistent standards for inspection of items where an inspector has “good cause” to believe chapter 150A HRS is being violated.

Currently, HDOA does not require inspection of agricultural products (other than whole plants, propagative plant parts, and soil) prior to inter-island movement, though cut flowers, foliage, fruits, vegetables, and other non-propagative plant parts may be subject to inspection at either the port of departure or entry, at the discretion of the department. (see §4-72-3 HAR) The proposed new requirements in SB1100 SD2 will significantly impact all agricultural producers that sell and ship products interisland. While most Hawaii residents live on Oahu, most of the local agricultural products are grown on Hawaii Island, so these new inter-island requirements will unfairly impact these producers and will require significant capacity increases for HDOAB to inspect all agricultural products moving inter-island.

**We respectfully request this Committee consider striking section 27, to ensure that residents and agricultural producers in Hawaii are treated the same as residents and agricultural producers of other states or, at the least, re-inserting the existing text of section 150A-8 HRS so that the chapter 72 HAR amendments may be enforced, by amending page 59, lines 7 through 11, to read as follows:**

**“§150A-8 Transporting in State. (a)** Flora and fauna and pest host material specified by rules and regulations of the department shall not be moved from one island to another island within the State or from one locality to another on the same island except by a permit issued by the department.

**(b)** The movement between the”

#### **Addition of biosecurity experts to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity**

Part II of SB 1100 SD1 renames HDOA as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and the Board of Agriculture as the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity. We applaud this expanded focus on broader issues of biosecurity. We believe the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity

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<sup>3</sup> In SB1100 SD1, the language on p.63, line 9, was “may require” an inspection; SB1100 SD2 changed that language to “shall require.”

should reflect this new focus by adding a member from the invasive species response community and the environmental conservation community with biosecurity expertise.

**We respectfully request this Committee consider adding a new section at the end of Part II of SB 1100 SD2 as follows:**

Sec. \_\_. Subsection (a) of section 26-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**“§26-16 Department of agriculture and biosecurity.** (a) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall be headed by an executive board to be known as the board of agriculture and biosecurity. The board shall consist of ten members:

- (1) One who shall be a resident of the county of Hawaii;
- (2) One who shall be a resident of the county of Maui;
- (3) One who shall be a resident of the county of Kauai;
- (4) Four at large; and
- (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources; the director of business, economic development, and tourism; and the dean of the University of Hawaii college of tropical agriculture and human resources, or their designated representatives, who shall serve as ex officio, voting members.

The majority of the members of the board described in paragraphs (1) through (4) shall be from the agricultural community, ~~or the agricultural support sector~~, the invasive species response community, or the environmental conservation community with demonstrated biosecurity expertise, with at least one member from each such category. The appointment, tenure, and removal of the members and the filling of vacancies on the board shall be as provided in section 26-34. The governor shall appoint a chairperson of the board from the members.”

#### **Participation of State and local government employees on the Biosecurity Emergency Response Program**

Part IV of SB 1100 SD2 (beginning on p. 35, line 13) authorizes the Chairperson of HDOAB to provide pay and liability protections to a designated team of individuals who are not State or county employees, as “team members” who are selected by the Chairperson based on criteria established by the Chairperson and who receive pay as established by the Chairperson by rule (p. 37, lines 12 - 15) to respond in the “event of an emergency due to a breach of the State’s biosecurity measures.” (p. 36, lines 5 - 6)

“Team members” receive pay for each day of participation in continuing professional education and training and for each day of service if the Chairperson finds their “assistance is appropriate following a biosecurity event or emergency.” (Pg. 37, lines 16 -18)

We applaud efforts to prepare for a rapid response to the detection of a new high-impact invasive species or population. Hawaii already has a similar capacity with the island invasive species committees under UH, as well as other State and county employees. If the Governor declares an invasive species emergency under chapter 127A HRS, the response framework allows for engaging these personnel and the State also has the ability to contract with private companies to respond rapidly. HDOAB identifying entities that could be helpful in such a response in advance is good planning. However, paying non-governmental employees the Chairperson selects to be part of an ongoing team may be an inefficient use of State funds and could result in the appearance of inappropriateness.

Further, these rapid response measures appear to be only for control and eradication, not regulatory responses. To effectively respond to a new high-impact invasive species, HDOAB will need the authority to quarantine the area where the invasive species is detected, have the capacity to determine where the species is present, and provide rapid response to control the species in all infected/infested locations.

**We respectfully request this Committee consider amending Part IV of SB 1100 by:**

1. On page 36, line 17 through page 37, line 18, amend subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

~~“(b) The chairperson shall compile a list of qualified professionals who are willing to serve on an~~ organize an emergency response team, giving priority to individuals state and county employees having experience dealing with the containment and eradication of organisms. The chairperson shall ~~appoint at least one team of professionals from the list,~~ making make a reasonable effort to appoint at least one member from each island except Niihau. If a qualified representative cannot be appointed from each island, the chairperson, at a minimum, shall appoint one member from each county. Each team appointed shall serve for a period of four years; provided that the chairperson shall have the flexibility of appointing additional special teams for shorter or longer periods of time as the need arises. Members of a biosecurity response team shall receive continuing professional education and training on the provision of assistance to be ready to provide services whenever a biosecurity event or emergency occurs. The team members shall ~~be compensated~~ receive reimbursement for actual expenses incurred for each day of service provided under this section, including participation in training required by the chairperson, ~~under a fee schedule established by the chairperson under chapter 91.~~

(c) The team shall be activated by the chairperson whenever the chairperson finds that assistance is appropriate following a biosecurity event or an emergency related to biosecurity is declared by the Governor under chapter 127A.”

2. At the bottom of page 39, add a new section to read as follows:

**“§150A-\_\_ Rapid response quarantine authority.** The Chairperson is authorized to quarantine any area that is known or reasonably suspected to be infested with a newly detected invasive species or pest, a new population of an invasive species or pest, an invasive species or pest that is being actively controlled in the State, or a prohibited or restricted organism to prevent the movement of materials to or from the location.”

### **Part V Transitional Facilities**

Part V of SB 1100 SD2 (beginning on p. 40, line 1) provides for the inspection of plants, animals, and certain agricultural commodities imported into Hawaii from other states to be carried out by private sector employees licensed by HDOAB at privately owned transitional facilities. It is exciting that this bill is looking at models used in New Zealand to prevent the importation of pests. However, we note a few issues presented by the proposed amendments in Part V.

For instance, the proposed amendments, unlike the New Zealand model, do not allow for the inspection of any item imported or require the movement of all containers to transitional facilities, do not clarify how the fees for the private inspections will be established, or clarify how the fees will meet the reasonableness test so as not to burden or impede interstate commerce. It is unclear to us when the private biosecurity inspectors will be utilized and how they will compete with HDOAB inspectors. Page 41, lines 4 through 13, provide that items will go to a transitional facility to be inspected by private biosecurity inspectors for a fee either: (1) upon order by HDOAB; or (2) if the importer chooses to take them to the facility. It is unclear when HDOAB will inspect items free of charge versus ordering an importer to pay the private biosecurity inspectors for the same type of inspection or why an importer would prefer to pay for the inspection.

In addition, implementing the transitional facilities proposed by Part V will be a big undertaking and we appreciate the changes made to SB1100 to delay the effective date of this section until January 1, 2027. In New Zealand, the licensing, facility, pre-border, border, and health and biosecurity requirements are hundreds and hundreds of pages. It seems reasonable to develop and provide import standards for the various imports and to understand the potential impacts that this program might have, including on food. Further, New Zealand is an independent country and its national government sets out its importation and inspection standards. As a state, Hawaii is subject to preemption by Federal laws and limited in its ability to regulate foreign or interstate commerce by the U.S. Constitution. We hope the transitional facilities program will be carried out in a manner that will protect Hawaii from legal challenges for impermissibly burdening commerce and consumers from increased costs, perhaps by beginning this effort with a study conducted by the Legislative Reference Bureau.

### **Ensuring fairness in expenditures for Government-Industry Agreements for Readiness and Response and Pest Management Plans.**

Part VI of SB 1100 SD2, in section 31 (beginning on p. 70, line 17), adds three new sections to chapter 150A, HRS. The first section allows HDOAB to enter into agreements with businesses and industry groups related to preventing, detecting, and responding to “unwanted organisms.” There are no penalties if the businesses fail to comply with the plan. It appears these are fully voluntary agreements for industries and HDOAB will provide resources to develop and carry out the agreements.

**We respectfully suggest this Committee consider requiring businesses to comply with the terms of the agreement by inserting on page 71, after line 20, the following:**

“(c) A violation of an applicable readiness plan shall be subject to penalties as set out in section 150A-14.”

The third new section (beginning on p. 72, line 17) allows any person to request HDOAB fund management activities for new and possibly existing pests under a pest management plan. This new section requires the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to approve the plans and HDOAB will share costs and may enter into contracts to carry out the plans. These seem to be control or eradication plans, not regulatory plans and there is no penalty for failure to comply with a plan. The use of the term “person” also appears to exclude any State or local government entity.

**We respectfully request this Committee consider inserting “including any unit of State or local government” after “Any person” on page 72, line 17.**

HDOA’s list of pests for control and eradication was last updated 2008. Section 141-3.5(a) HRS currently requires HDOA to “develop and implement a detailed control or eradication program for any pest designated ... using the best available technology.” To date, HDOA has not developed any such plans, and there is nothing prohibiting HDOAB from working with industry, conservation, or any other groups in developing those required plans. We hope this new section will streamline HDOAB’s petition process to designate new pests and develop control or eradication plans for high-impact pests. However, to the extent HDOAB is funding pest control actions for private entities on private property without requiring the entities to comply with the plans, we do not think HDOAB needs a new statute for that.

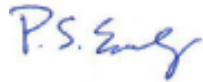
Further, as drafted, the pest management plan approval process creates a first come/first served grant program for using State funds to control pests. We suggest that HDOAB either consider all plans at one time each year, with an exception for rapid response for new pests, or HDOAB itself identify the priority pests and locations where expenditure of State funds will be most effective to prevent, control, or eradicate a pest and ask for plan submissions related to HDOAB’s own priorities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1100 SD2.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christy'.

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P.S. Easley'.

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair

Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

**SB1100 SD2**

**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB1100 SD2** which Renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and establishes requirements that strengthen biosecurity for the state.

Biosecurity should be a high priority for Hawaii as a remote, island state. This bill demonstrates biosecurity as a high priority and designates the Department of Agriculture to take the lead in managing biosecurity for the state. Biosecurity measures are vital for protecting Hawaii's landscape and agricultural operations.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



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Mar 10, 2025

**Hearing: House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems SD2**  
**RE: SB1100**

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee:

As an organization that has worked on invasive species issues on the Big Island for 20 years, BIISC is very grateful and excited to see the interest that this legislature has taken in biosecurity. In that spirit, we would like to provide comments on SB1100. Similar to House Bill 427, which passed through this committee earlier this year, SB1100 includes some important measures that could significantly improve our state's ability to prevent and respond to new species incursions. We are highly encouraged and supportive of those measures.

However, we are concerned about the proposal in this bill (which was not included in HB427) to move the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to HDOA from where it has been attached for two decades, with DLNR. We understand that one intent of SB1100 is to model Hawaii's invasive species response on the world-recognized gold standard of New Zealand. However, all invasive species work in NZ is not done by a single entity. The first line of defense, the pre-border and at-border work at ports of entry for people and goods, falls to the Ministry of Primary Industries. But conservation of marine resources, forests, and watersheds - including management of widespread invasive species - falls to the NZ Department of Conservation. Strategies for fighting invasive organisms comes from Landcare Research. These agencies work in concert to mitigate the impacts of invasive species at a landscape scale, and the HISC has been the vehicle through which analogous departments in Hawai'i coordinate work on invasive species.

**The definition of invasive species, as stated in both federal and state law, is a non-native species that negatively impacts the *environment*, the *economy*, or the *human health* in an area.** Protecting agriculture is a key area of focus in invasive species work, but not the *only* area. This is why the HISC itself was set up by the 2002 legislature to include multiple state departments, in recognition of the broad nature of invasive species in affecting so many areas of our lives. The ISC's formed in recognition of the limitations of the mandates of each state agency: even with an interagency approach, there are still vulnerabilities in-between, such as invasive plants on private properties within communities that do not fall within any department's mandate. This is why ISC's are often referred to as the "gap-fillers."

From the beginning, the core mission of the ISC's has been finding, identifying, evaluating, and - if necessary and possible - controlling newly established (or arrived) invasive plants on our islands that may threaten not just the agricultural economy, but also our environment and the health of our community members.

The intersection of HDOA's authority with invasive plants falls under the Noxious Weed Rules (HAR Ch. 68). However, out of the 20+ plant species that BIISC controls regularly for eradication, containment, or exclusion, only two are state-listed Noxious Weeds: fountain grass and devil weed. All of our other target plants have been identified as high-risk by the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, but are not designated state Noxious Weeds: that list has not been updated since 1992, a decade before the ISC's were formed and began systematically working to identify newly invading plants.



While most of our target plants pose significant environmental threats, at least three can cause severe reactions in humans, and one of those - rubbervine - is a noxious weed of agriculture in Australia that remains unlisted in Hawai'i. The flexibility of BIISC allows us to work on all of these plants, before they have significant impacts on agriculture, but also on state-managed lands and in communities. With that long-term view, HISC administrative staff at DLNR often go above and beyond in assisting us in finding additional funding for our work. Just last year, I was connected by the HISC staff to a US Dept of the Interior special one-time grant for eradication work, and BIISC became only one of 12 recipients nationwide to receive that grant. Because of this additional support on top of continuous HISC funding over the last decade, we will eradicate rubbervine from this island by 2028.

HISC competitive grants provide about half of the annual operating costs of the ISCs. Each year, a committee consisting of designees from each of the HISC agencies reviews the grant proposals and works together to prioritize funding for those projects that meet the HISC's strategy and agencies' priorities. There are many stumbling blocks in bureaucracies, but DLNR staff have streamlined and smoothed this process so that it functions in a reliable and consistent fashion. It is alarming when a process that is working well is proposed for significant change, without a clear immediate need or benefit. In my tenure as manager, we have never received funding from HDOA, so there is also very real concern about the future of BIISC's ability to deliver our programs to the community. BIISC has worked for a decade to provide extensive outreach, resources, and support to our community members on widespread invasive pests such as LFA, albizia, Queensland longhorn beetle, semi-slug/rat lungworm, and other invasives that have either do not fall under HDOA's mandate, or are no longer active projects for HDOA on the Big Island.

Strengthening HDOA's pre- and at-border capabilities is an important goal that will require a significant amount of staff, preparation, and effort to roll out. However, asking that HDOA take on responsibility for all areas of invasive species management, including widespread pests and environmental threats, is not practical and takes away focus from that critical border work. This move would risk the loss of significant community and research programs by shifting into a narrow agriculture protection focus, clearly not a desirable outcome of this otherwise well-intentioned legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Mahalo,



Franny Kinslow Brewer  
Program Manager  
Big Island Invasive Species Committee  
[fbrewer@hawaii.edu](mailto:fbrewer@hawaii.edu)



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

March 12, 2025

9:00 AM

Conference Room 325

### COMMENTS on SB1100 SD2: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **offers COMMENTS AND CONCERNS** regarding SB1100 SD2, which renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and makes various amendments and investments in its roles within our biosecurity framework. **The Sierra Club greatly appreciates the recognized need to ensure the Department of Agriculture takes its biosecurity responsibilities seriously, but is gravely concerned about the potentially devastating unintended consequences of placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other non-Department of Agriculture programs and entities under the DAB.**

For years, if not decades, Department of Agriculture leaders have failed to utilize the department's unique and critical authorities to address the introduction and spread of invasive species across Hawai'i nei. This lack of regulatory initiative has contributed to multiple waves of invasive species that have already irrevocably and fundamentally impacted our islands. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, not just impacting native ecosystems 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 affected 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. Most recently, the years-long delay of regulatory action by the department has led to the establishment of the little fire ant and two-lined spittlebug on Hawai'i Island, the establishment of the coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, and the ongoing spread of the same across Kaua'i.

The Sierra Club appreciates that this measure would emphasize the need for department leaders to finally embrace their regulatory role, by renaming the department as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and establishing a deputy director to be responsible for its biosecurity efforts, among other initiatives.



However, given the Department of Agriculture's longstanding inability and/or unwillingness to fulfill its own existing duties in our all-hands-on-deck fight against invasive pests, the Sierra Club does have serious concerns with two aspects of this bill.

**First, placing HISC and other existing non-Department of Agriculture biosecurity programs under the newly renamed DAB may have devastating consequences for our islands.** HISC and its ISCs have proven to be incredibly effective at holding the line against invasive species, despite extremely limited funding and a lack of support from other agencies (i.e. the Department of Agriculture) assigned their own unique roles in our biosecurity framework. They are able to combine specialized expertise, field knowledge, cross-agency coordination, and community relationships to support the all-hands-on-deck fight to monitor, manage, and eradicate myriad invasive species throughout the islands, in areas ranging from forests to open spaces to even businesses and homes. **Notably, they have been able to successfully prevent or eradicate dozens of outbreaks of invasive species on every island, from fireweed to pampas grass to little fire ants, saving us from untold millions of dollars in damages and protecting our environment, food security, cultural integrity, local businesses, and residents from the significant and potentially irreparable impacts of invasive pests.**

Nonetheless, the Department of Agriculture has demonstrated continued indifference or even apparent hostility to the HISC. Department leadership was unwilling or unable to collaborate with HISC and other proven effective programs in the use of the historic biosecurity funding it was provided last year, the majority of which remains unencumbered. Given these and other longstanding concerns with Department of Agriculture leadership, placing HISC and other non-Department of Agriculture biosecurity programs under the DAB could severely disrupt and even dismantle what few effective strategies we currently have – leaving our islands incredibly vulnerable to the potentially devastating impacts of invasive species. **We therefore respectfully but strongly urge the Committee to remove any provisions that would place authority over HISC, the ISCs, and other non-Department of Agriculture biosecurity programs under the DAB.**

Second, given the concerns raised regarding the historical and recent actions and inactions of the Department of Agriculture's leadership, we respectfully urge that there be much stronger accountability mechanisms for any deputy director of biosecurity. The lack of even a Senate confirmation process means that the status quo of department



inaction may continue with no consequences under an appointed deputy director of biosecurity, even with the authorities and investments provided in this measure. **We therefore specifically urge amendments to ensure that the deputy director of biosecurity be subject to the Senate confirmation process, and to additionally report on a quarterly basis to the Board of Agriculture and on an annual basis to the legislature regarding their progress, challenges, and recommendations for the DAB biosecurity program.**

The Sierra Club greatly appreciates the effort put into this potentially transformative measure by its authors. **However, given our widely shared concerns regarding potential major and irreversible unintended consequences, we ask that the Committee adopt the amendments described above, or HOLD this bill.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT  
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII  
MARCH 12, 2025  
SB 1100 SD2 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Aloha, Chair Kahaloe, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

SB 1100 SD2 Renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department); establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; requires the Department to establish an emergency response team to respond to biosecurity events; authorizes the Department to establish transitional facilities; requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals; requires inspection of various items transported interisland; increases penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; requires the Department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawaii; authorizes pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests; transfers the Hawaii Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department; authorizes the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; authorizes the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; appropriates funds; and is effective 1/1/2050. (SD2)

While RMH supports initiatives that protect Hawaii's unique ecosystem from invasive species, **we are concerned about the potential delays this bill may impose on the timely receipt of goods for retailers.** Specifically, requiring additional inspections of shipping containers raises significant concerns about supply chain disruptions.

Currently, businesses rely on timely shipments to maintain inventory, meet customer demands, and sustain economic activity. If additional inspections result in extended delays - potentially from a few days to weeks or even a month - this would create severe challenges for retailers, especially small businesses that operate on tight margins. Such delays could lead to product shortages, increased costs, and ultimately higher prices for consumers in an already high-cost market.

RMH respectfully requests that the Committee consider provisions to mitigate delays, such as:

- Establishing clear timelines for inspections to prevent indefinite delays.
- Implementing risk-based assessments that prioritize high-risk imports while expediting clearance for low-risk goods.
- Increasing inspection capacity by allocating resources for additional inspectors and efficient inspection procedures.

We urge the Committee to carefully consider the economic implications of this bill and work toward a balanced approach that strengthens Hawaii's biosecurity while ensuring businesses can continue to receive their goods in a timely manner.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.



3610 Waiālae Ave • Honolulu, HI 96816



(808) 592-4200



tyamaki@rmhawaii.org



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

To The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair  
The Honorable Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

## SUPPORT SB1100 SD2 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB1100 SD2**, which, among other things, renames the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; establishes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity; requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish an emergency response team to respond to biosecurity events; authorizes the department to establish transitional facilities; requires the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals; requires inspection of various items transported interisland; increases penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; requires the department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawaii; and authorizes pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests.

The Chamber supports the strengthening of penalties for illegal plant and animal imports and the authorization for the creation of private transitional facilities to inspect imported plants and animals.

Additionally, the measure increases funding for biosecurity enforcement and facilitates cost-sharing agreements with the private sector to enhance biosecurity infrastructure.

Biosecurity is critically important for our island state, and we must strengthen the protection of our fragile ecosystem.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB1100 SD2** and respectfully request its passage.

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.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:17:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:07:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition in conjunction with the O'ahu Siera Club request that SB1100 not combine the efforts of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council with the Dept. of Agriculture which will dillute the efforts against invasives that include the Fire Ants and Coconut Rhino Beetles.

Right now the Rhinosoceros Beetle has destroyed many coconut and palm trees in Makakilo and we suspect it will get worse in other areas.

We oppose SB1100 and hope you will too!

Mahalo for your time.



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:15:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie v. carlson	Slow Food In Hawaii	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Laurie Carlson and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods. They were very helpful to my community in maunawili when we had an invasion of little red fire ants.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Sharon Hurd is someone who strongly supports 'her clients' --Farmers, nurseries, ag in general. Unfortunately, this is also made her unable to deal with our Invasive species Issues, as she is heavily conflicted about forcing these entities to respond appropriately when invasive species arrive at their properties.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Laurie Carlson

SUGARLAND FARMS, INC.  
PO BOX 27  
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759  
(808) 688-2892

SB1100sd2, Relating to Bioscecurity  
House AGR Hearing – 9:00 AM  
Wednesday, March 12, 2024  
Testimony By: Jonathan Jefts

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Jonathan Jefts, manager of Sugarland Farms, Inc. Our family farms on Oahu and Molokai grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. These crops include bananas, green bell peppers, cabbages, Chinese cabbages, cucumbers, and several varieties of tomatoes and watermelons.

Recent discussions about biosecurity have increased the awareness of the severe damage to agriculture as well as the quality of life of our communities.

We appreciate and support this comprehensive measure to strengthen Hawaii's capacity to control and eradicate harmful invasive species infestations and prevent the entry of other harmful invasive species.

We do have comments about two sections in this measure:

- 1) Pg 59 – Pg 66. Proposed Section 150A-8. Transporting In State.  
The proposed section replaces the current HRS that requires a DOA permit to move flora or fauna from one island to another island within the State or from one locality to another on the same island except by a permit issued by the department.

SB1100sd2 details an extensive list of flora and fauna in commerce between the islands. Funding for an adequate number of inspectors, timely inspection, and approval must be assured so that agricultural produce can reach the marketplace, fresh for consumers.

- 2) Pg 72 – Pg 74. Proposed Section 150A-H. Pest management plans.  
Clarification is needed about the applicability of this section to pests that are well-established in Hawaii, such as the white fly, or other well-established fungal or bacterial diseases. We follow federal protection guidelines and labeling specific to applications, and use integrated pest management tools.

Pg. 74 (c) At a public hearing, the board shall approve the proposed plan, deny the proposed plan, or approve the proposed plan with modifications.

Timeliness and expedited review for board action is of concern. The gap from the time of filing a proposed plan to approval to execution of the pest management plan may be too late in preventing the spread of an invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Hawai'i Forest Industry Association**

7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
Suite A-143A, #249  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Phone: 808/933/9411  
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

**Date:** 03/10/25

**TO:** AGR Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members

**FROM:** Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of SB1100 SD2 Relating to Biosecurity

Dear Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of SB1100 SD2 Relating to Biosecurity.

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) supports the contents of this bill, especially the addition of a Deputy Chairperson for biosecurity, the establishment of a response team to respond to biosecurity events and emergencies, the licensing and training of biosecurity inspectors, and the required inspection of various inter-island items.

Considering the damaging effects of invasive species on Hawaii's unique biodiversity, implementing stronger efforts to minimize biosecurity threats and their harmful impacts, via the means described in SB1100 SD2, will be beneficial to Hawaii. Monitoring for and protecting against invasive pests and pathogens, helps to protect our agricultural land, our forested land, our ranch and pasture lands, and the economies tied to all three. Protecting our islands and resources against biosecurity threats helps to promote a stronger, safer, more productive and more self-sustaining Hawaii for today and tomorrow. For these reasons the HFIA hopes that you will support SB1100 SD2.

Mahalo,

Guy Cellier, President  
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

*HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.*

**HFIA Board of Directors**

Officers: President Guy Cellier, Vice President Irene Sprecher, Secretary Taylor Coons, Treasurer Wade Lee  
Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Doug Gordon, Nicholas Koch, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Commenting on SB1100 SD2, Relating to Biosecurity.  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
March 12, 2025 at 9:00 am  
Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra is providing comments on SB1100 SD2, which would rename the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DOAB) and transfer the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the newly-named Department.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is an inter-departmental collaboration comprised of the Departments of Land & Natural Resources, Agriculture, Health, Transportation, Business, Economic Development & Tourism, and the University of Hawai'i. The council was established in 2003 following a report that indicated earlier efforts were piecemeal, lacking in adequate rigor. HISC provides critical policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the state and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful.

HISC is an independent council, currently guided by its co-chairs from the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) and Department of Agriculture. The council is attached to DLNR for administrative purposes only. This bill would unnecessarily transfer HISC to a part of the DOAB overseen by a Deputy of DOAB, which defeats its interagency character, purpose, and mandate.

Species that evolve on islands do so in the absence of some of the world's more competitive species and it is these invasive species that threaten the state's biodiversity, as well as economic drivers including the agriculture and tourism sectors. Supporting HISC's independence and the cooperation of other state agencies is necessary to ensure its long-term viability and the protection of Hawaii's cherished biodiversity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and provide comments for SB1100 SD2.

---

*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

---

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House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00 AM Conference Room 325  
State Capitol

**Testimony providing comments on SB1100 SD2**

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committees,

The Kauai Invasive Species Committee (KISC) appreciates the legislature's focus on biosecurity and invasive species this legislative session. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB1100 SD2, *Relating to Biosecurity*. Please see comments on the following sections:

**Movement and restructure of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

*Part III Section 19 (page 22-23) proposes for the newly established Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity to oversee all of the State's biosecurity initiatives, including programs under HRS 194 - the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC).*

*Part VII Section 32 (page 75) moves the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) under the newly named Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.*

*Part X Section 43 (page 88) requires the move to take effect on July 1, 2025.*

HISC is a large multi-agency council co-chaired by the Chairperson of HDOA and Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). As co-Chair, HDOA currently has the ability to influence and guide HISC's strategies and work. The Council is composed of the Directors or Chairpersons of five State Departments and the President of the University of Hawaii. Currently, HISC is housed under DLNR administratively only. Requiring the Council of Department Directors to be overseen by a Deputy of one Department and become part of that Department removes the interdepartmental collaborative purpose, autonomy, and mandate of the Council.

The current structure of HISC supports a large amount of work on invasive species across the state impacting multiple sectors. KISC is concerned how this shift might affect the HISC's competitive grant program that supports projects statewide. HISC funding has provided operational support for KISC to focus on invasive species management actions that expand the abilities of agencies. KISC actively monitors and/or controls 18 high priority invasive species, many of these species are not controlled by any other entity on Kauai.

HISC's grant management program is a significant administrative task. SB1100 SD2 proposes the movement of HISC within a few months without providing HDOA with significant time to execute a smooth transition. We respectfully ask you to reconsider this move, or at least, delay the move to allow for a smooth and efficient transition. Additionally, a study or review may help determine how and if the move of HISC would be in the best interest of the state and help identify any unintended consequences.

### **Removal of authority to regulate movement of pests within an island**

*Part III Section 27 (page 59) proposes the deletion of the current language of HRS 150A-8 and removes the Department's current authority to adopt rules to regulate the movement of pests or pest-infested material within a single island and **does not add** that authority back in the proposed amendments.*

HDOA's authority to regulate the movement of pest or pest-infested material within a single island is vital to the success of rapid response actions and the eradications of new and expanding pests on each island. Once a pest evades port detection and is detected at a new location on one island, as proposed, the Department would not be able to regulate the movement of that pest within the island. How does removing this authority impact the recently adopted amendments to HAR Chapter 4-72, specifically, the Department's ability to quarantine infested materials for local sale at nurseries? We respectfully ask you to reconsider removing this important authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. KISC appreciates the broader intent of SB1100 SD2 and is supportive of increasing the State's biosecurity efforts.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tiffani Keanini', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tiffani Keanini

Manager - Kauai Invasive Species Committee

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:30:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery and I am Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i. We are writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. We appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, We STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While we recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, We have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, we urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action



plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Susan RobertsEmery  
Green Party of Hawai'i  
Paauilo



Testimony on SB 1100, SD2, Relating to Biosecurity

House Committee on Agriculture  
March 12, 2025

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Harbors Users Group (HHUG) is writing to **respectfully oppose SB 1100, SD2**, relating to biosecurity. This bill would, among other provisions, require inspections.

Please note that this bill allows “volunteer emergency biosecurity disaster response personnel” to have the same powers, rights, duties, and privileges as regular state employees. We would be concerned whether these provisions include law enforcement responsibilities.

In addition, on page 39, lines 5-13, this bill exempts volunteer emergency biosecurity disaster response personnel engaged in the emergency response from liability “for the death of or injury to any person, or for damage to property” as a result of any act or omission in the course of rendering “professional biosecurity care” under a mass biosecurity event or condition. This language seems to mean that volunteers are professionals and are therefore exempt from liability for damage to shipping containers or their contents. Our understanding is that there is also an exemption that would allow shipping companies to seek coverage under our insurance policies for “injury or damage sustained from the operation of any vehicle that may be insured[...] to the extent of the insurance.” The State or entity conducting the inspection or visit must be liable for any and all damages to a carrier’s cargo or equipment due to negligence of emergency biosecurity response personnel, including volunteers. A carrier should not need to seek coverage under its insurance carrier for damages caused by a third party.

Among other concerns are the establishment of private inspection facilities, the definition of importers, and the assessment of costs on the importer. Hawaii’s economy is reliant on the efficient and effective movement of cargo through its harbors. While we appreciate the intent behind ensuring biosecurity, HHUG would like to express concerns about logistics and provisions in this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments in opposition to this bill.



*For the bay  
For the future  
For life*

March 11, 2025

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of Mālama Maunalua, a non-profit restoring the health of Maunalua Bay, O'ahu. I am concerned with bill SB1100. I am particularly concerned that this bill would move the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (currently named the Department of Agriculture).

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) to act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people's backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- HISC provides essential funds and support for interagency projects and program operations aimed at preventing new invasive species introductions and their dispersal intra- and inter-island, (ref. [HISC FY 24](#)).
  - These funds also fill State and Federal resource gaps that control established invasive species populations from expanding and threatening native species.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too expansive for any single department to undertake, so coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more appropriate approach.
- HISC and DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- The Department of Agriculture (DOA) has had problems filling critical positions, spending funds quickly for time sensitive projects, obtaining federal funds, retaining leadership, and coordinating with other invasive species and biosecurity organizations.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA has filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

*Doug Harper*

Doug Harper  
Executive Director

**Board of Directors**

*Brooke Berrington  
Mitch D'Olier  
Tim Johns  
Malia Kamisugi  
Amy Monk  
Sandy Pfund  
Steve Schatz  
Jennifer Taylor  
Jean Tsukamoto*

**Directors Emeritus**

*Carol Wilcox*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:50:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teya Penniman	Maui Invasive Species Committee	Comments	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

The Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) supports the Legislature's increased focus on invasive species, including more funding for biosecurity under the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA). MISC offers the following comments.

If the Legislature establishes a new biosecurity agency, the existing functions and operations of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) should remain intact, administratively attached to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, at least until the new agency has the necessary capacity to implement the mandates under the biosecurity plan. Management of the HISC program requires significant administrative time and resources; tasking HDOA with this kuleana at the same time it is taking on significantly more duties and responsibilities could result in disruptions that exacerbate existing invasive species threats and create gaps in protection at a time when continuity is essential.

Please consider eliminating or deferring this provision or conducting a preliminary study to assess the potential consequences of such a move.

Mahalo for your consideration.

*Teya M. Penniman*



House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00AM Conference Room 325  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: Testimony – Providing Comments for SB1100 “Relating to Biosecurity”**

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chairs Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of the O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) to express appreciation for the legislature recognizing the urgent need to bolster statewide biosecurity and invasive species management. Improving prevention and response efforts for invasive species will be critical to the success of on-going and future responses to high-priority pests that pose significant threats to our state. Providing more resources and capacity for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to inspect at ports and emphasizing the role DOA has in biosecurity is crucial in bolstering the state’s first line of defense against priority pests.

**However, OISC is concerned with the portion of SB1100 that proposes moving the Hawai’i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from being administered through the Department of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) to administration through the DOA.** The lack of clarity regarding this proposed change for HISC is worrisome because even short interruptions in on-going responses that HISC currently supports would lead to long-lasting negative impacts to our island and state. Moving HISC may remove important layers of protection from high-impact invasive species and reduce our state’s overall biosecurity.

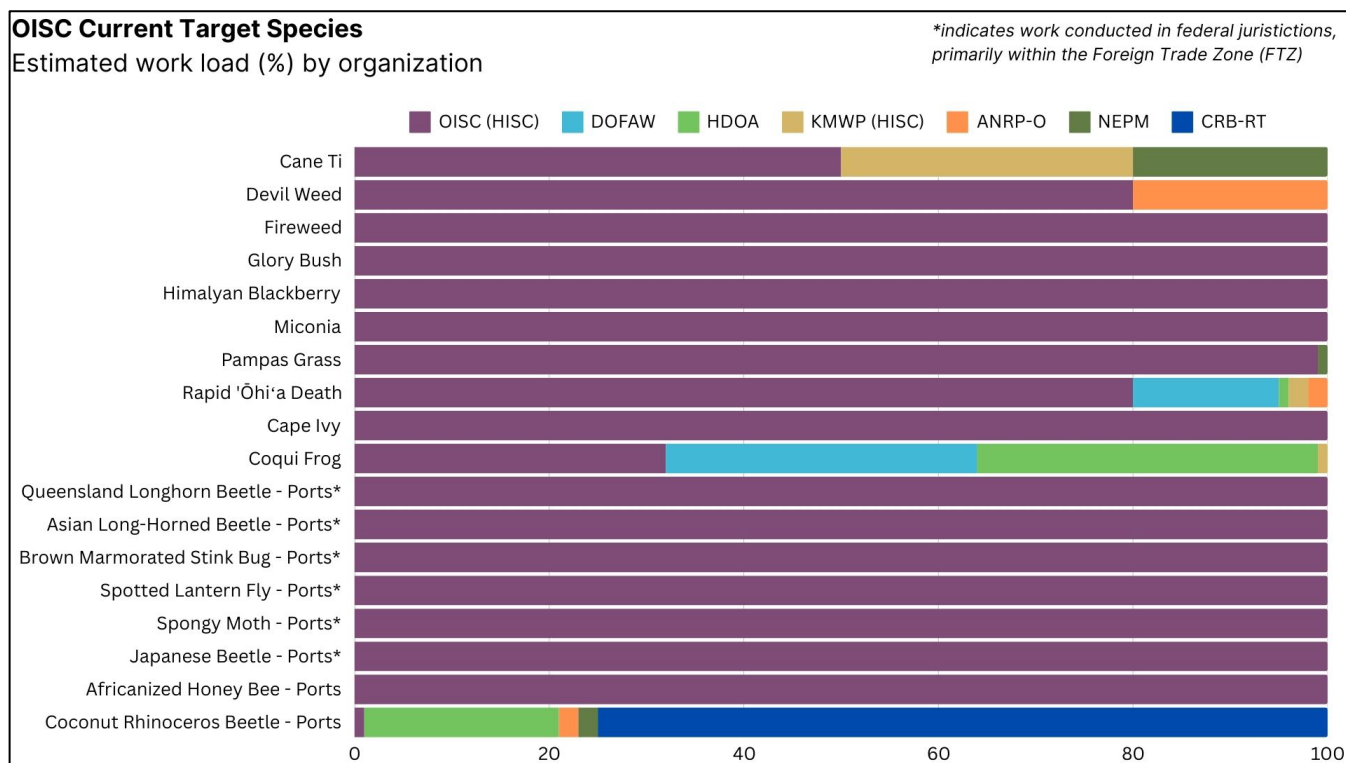
HISC provides OISC with funding and resources to be the second layer of protection when priority pests make it past inspection at the border and begin to establish in people’s backyards and on commercial properties. OISC utilizes HISC funds for early detection and rapid response to some of the world’s worst invasive species that infiltrate our State. OISC also utilizes HISC funds for public awareness and outreach efforts that are key to successful control. Species like little fire ant, coqui frog, miconia, devil weed, Rapid ‘Ōhi’a Death (ROD) and others. Without HISC funds, this work would not be possible.

OISC provides relief to homeowners and business owners by being able to use HISC funds to work on their properties when many other agencies cannot. OISC works across all land-ownerships, which makes our organization unique in the fight against invasive species. Other agencies cannot work on private lands, whether that is because of agency mandates or because capacity is limited. Our military partner agencies, for example, are limited to controlling invasive species on military or adjacent parcels. Some teams at DLNR are limited to working only on or adjacent to Forest Reserves and Natural

Area Reserves. Even DOA has the responsibility to prioritize agricultural lands, producers, and imports. However, OISC is specifically set up to respond to priority pests regardless of property boundaries.

By working in backyards and the low-elevation forest, OISC also protects our priority watershed areas by dealing with these invaders before they are able to establish in high-value forest. If OISC were not able to respond to these species and they then establish in State Forest Reserves or Natural Area Reserves, they would become the responsibility of DLNR. The same can be said for high-value tourist areas. DOA has an expertise and focus on agriculture, which is incredibly important, but moving HISC may unintentionally jeopardize the important work that protects our forests and watersheds. While biosecurity is key in protecting our agricultural industry, it is also important in protecting many other industries. Tourism, transportation, human health, marine ecosystems, and other areas of importance rely on biosecurity and support from HISC. Moving HISC may reduce or remove a large portion of funding and support that these areas of importance rely on.

HISC supports eradication and containment efforts for a large number and variety of high-priority invasive species. Some of these species that threaten our state and rely on HISC support top the list of the “100 of the World’s Worst Invasive Species” according to the Global Invasive Species Database. Below is a breakdown of estimated participation between OISC and partners, based on the information OISC has from partner agencies, regarding some of OISC’s target species funded by HISC:



Many high-priority invasive species are extremely difficult to eradicate. Detecting and responding to infestations quickly is critical to successful eradication and cost savings. Effective survey and treatment methodology is also critical, and when known effective methods exist, adhering to those methods

becomes paramount. HISC has supported many successful eradications and containment efforts since they were established. One recent example of success is the joint OISC and Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) response to little fire ant (LFA) in Lanikai on Oahu.

OISC and HAL have worked to contain the little fire ant infestation in Lanikai that includes public access paths to the beach and 85 individual properties adjacent to the pathways and to the beach. The first post-treatment survey indicated a reduction from estimated millions of ants to one singular ant detected on one property, demonstrating the success of these efforts at one of the State's most popular tourist attractions and for residents who live in that area. Follow-up surveys by OISC found no ants. Similar efforts are important for protecting agricultural lands, growers, and many other nurseries by catching priority pests before they cause harm. Without HISC resources, this work would not be possible and the State would be spending many more resources dealing with the consequences of invasive species situations similar to Lanikai.

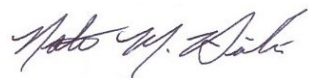
These HISC funds are also leveraged to secure other county and federal funding sources so that we can provide the most extensive response possible. DLNR and HISC have helped OISC acquire \$4,989,943 from additional federal funding sources since 2021. These funds have expanded OISC management efforts to fill gaps in response for high-priority pests. Both HISC and DLNR coordinated with federal agencies including the U.S. Department of Defense, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to fill this need. By contrast, no other departments have provided close to the same level of support as HISC and DLNR. OISC does not receive state passthrough funding from any other departments and was not made eligible to apply for any of the Act 231 Biosecurity funds through DOA.

I have included as attachments information demonstrating the important work in jeopardy should HISC move from DLNR to DOA and those resources be no longer available to OISC. These attachments include:

- the OISC 2023 HISC Field Data summary,
- the OISC 2023 Outreach Report,
- the OISC 2023 HISC Report,
- a cost breakdown for certified Pest Control Operator (PCO) little fire ant treatments vs OISC/HAL response (both treatments and surveillance)
- a graph showing the amount of samples collected/submitted for Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)
  - This includes residential, commercial, and wildland samples that are crucial for detecting and then responding to infections for one of our most valuable native forest species
- a list of agency acronyms for deciphering Figure 1 and other resources attached

OISC is grateful for the continued support from all State departments, the legislature, and the members of these Committees. Invasive species will continue to be a threat to our economy, watersheds, and our way of life. HISC funds are critical to OISC's mission, the protection of the community, and the protection of our watershed. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nate M. Dube". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Nate" being more prominent.

Nate Dube  
OISC Manager  
[oiscmgr@hawaii.edu](mailto:oiscmgr@hawaii.edu)



**Taxa Annual Summary Report****January 01, 2023 to December 31, 2023****ManagementAreaName: Oahu Invasive Species Committee****ManagementUnitName:****SubUnitName:****Action Location Name:****All****All****All****OISC Action or Contribute?: Contribute and OISC**

<b>TaxonName:</b>	<b>Surveyed Acres</b>	<b>Treated Acres</b>	<b>NAWMA Area Treated</b>	<b>Chem. Controlled</b>	<b>Manual Controlled</b>	<b>Mature Controlled</b>	<b>Immature Controlled</b>	<b>Total Controlled</b>	<b>Total ISC Work Hours</b>	<b>Volunteer Total Hours</b>	<b>Contributed Total Hours</b>	<b>Total People Hours</b>
<b>Acalolepta aesthetica</b>	36.5130		0.0000			0	0	0	25.80		6.00	31.80
<b>Anoplophora glabripennis</b>	36.5130		0.0000			0	0	0	25.80		6.00	31.80
<b>Apis mellifera scutellata</b>	8468.5500		0.0000			0	0	0	114.40		17.50	131.90
<b>Ceratocystis species</b>	247048.4860	0.0000	0.0002		2	2	0	2	433.40		38.00	471.40
<b>Chromolaena odorata</b>	295.0940	6.5210	0.6083	602	5481	1148	4935	6083	1227.00	223.50	98.00	1548.50
<b>Cortaderia sp.</b>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			0	0	0	0.25			0.25
<b>Delairea odorata</b>	44.8310		0.0031		31	0	31	31	276.00		63.00	339.00
<b>Eleutherodactylus coqui</b>	2.4220		0.0000	0		0	0	0	103.00		10.00	113.00
<b>Halyomorpha halys</b>	36.5130		0.0000			0	0	0	25.80		6.00	31.80
<b>Lycorma delicatula</b>	36.5130		0.0000			0	0	0	25.80		6.00	31.80
<b>Lymantria dispar</b>	36.5130		0.0000			0	0	0	25.80		6.00	31.80
<b>Miconia calvenscens</b>	8364.7510	0.0000	0.1819	78	1741	5	1814	1819	6841.00		545.00	7386.00
<b>Miscellaneous Species</b>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000			0	0	0	0.00			0.00
<b>Not Applicable</b>	0.0000	0.0000	0.0000	0		0	0	0	140.50		8.50	149.00
<b>Oryctes rhinoceros</b>	107.7620		0.0001		1	1	0	1	58.20		3.00	61.20
<b>Popillia japonica</b>	144.9690		0.0000			0	0	0	47.90		11.50	59.40
<b>Rubus discolor</b>	28.8710		0.0000			0	0	0	268.00		26.00	294.00
<b>Tibouchina herbacea</b>	211.5360	0.4840	0.0498	498		215	283	498	613.00		28.00	641.00
<b>Tibouchina urvilleana</b>	0.0190		0.0000			0	0	0	4.00			4.00
<b>Wasmannia auropunctata</b>	108.1720	187.5010	0.0000	0		0	0	0	301.25	41.20	20.15	362.60

# OISC ANNUAL OUTREACH REPORT 2023

2023 was the year of rising LFA detections on O'ahu and much of OISC outreach efforts went to supporting early detections and messaging that supports efforts to "Wave Goodbye" to LFA.



*OISC Outreach staff dressed as LFA at the Pest World Conference, October 2023.*

OISC outreach program is dedicated to promoting our mission to prevent, detect, and eradicate invasive species on O'ahu.

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**oisc**

**O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE**  
**[www.oahuisc.org](http://www.oahuisc.org)**



## OISC OUTREACH TEAM



The OISC outreach program is dedicated to furthering our mission of preventing, detecting, and eliminating invasive species on O'ahu. This goal is accomplished through interactions with local schools and communities, developing and sharing educational materials, coordinating volunteer outings, and partnering with other organizations to enhance outreach activities. Additionally, the program ensures access for field operations.

The outreach team comprises two essential members: the Outreach Coordinator and the Outreach & Education Associate. The Coordinator is responsible for overseeing the program, aligning strategies with OISC goals and funding objectives, delivering outreach messages at community events, ensuring access for field operations, and supervising the Outreach & Education Associate. On the other hand, the Associate focuses on creating content, managing social media, presenting Hō'ike LFA Activity sessions in schools (K-12), and engaging in outreach events.

The following report provides detailed insights into OISC's outreach endeavors and highlights how we spread awareness about invasive species a remarkable 596,226 times in 2023.



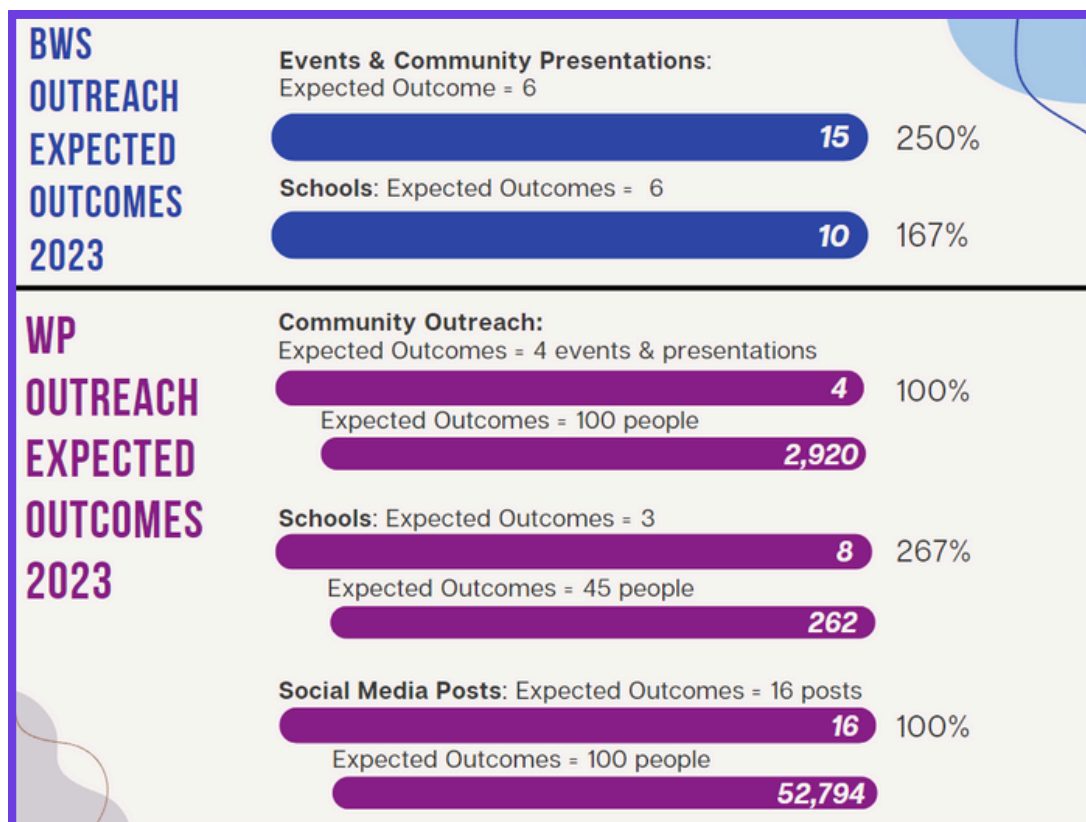
## 2023 FUNDER GOALS:

OISC received funding from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), and the Watershed Partnerships (WP), Army Natural Resources Program- O'ahu (ANRP) for outreach activities in 2023.

We reached or exceeded all expected outcomes except for ANRP-O, which received an extension until March 31, 2024.

Funder	Expected Outcomes	Completed
HISC	Display at 15 events	34
	12 community presentations	24
	12 school presentations including Hoike LFA activity	36
	250 volunteer hours	273.5
	100 property owners contacted	139
	275 posts to social media	359
	Assist with Stop the Ant Month	Yes
	Assist with HISAM	Yes
	5% engagement rate (social media)	15%
BWS	Display at 6 community events	15
	6 school presentations	10
	HaSTA & HEEA watershed health curriculum	Yes
WP	16 social media posts (cane ti)	16
	>100 people engaged on social media (cane ti)	52,794
	3 school presentations (cane ti)	9
	>45 students at school (cane ti)	262
	4 events and/or community presentations (cane ti)	4
	>100 people engaged at event/community presentations (cane ti)	2920
*ANRP	3 agriculture related events	3
	Direct outreach to 6 farms/ranched	In progress
	Create & distribute materials for farmers/ranchers	In progress
	Webpage resource for chrodo	In progress

\*ANRP Grant is extended until March 15th, 2024. At the time of this report all expected outcomes are on track to be completed by the extension date.



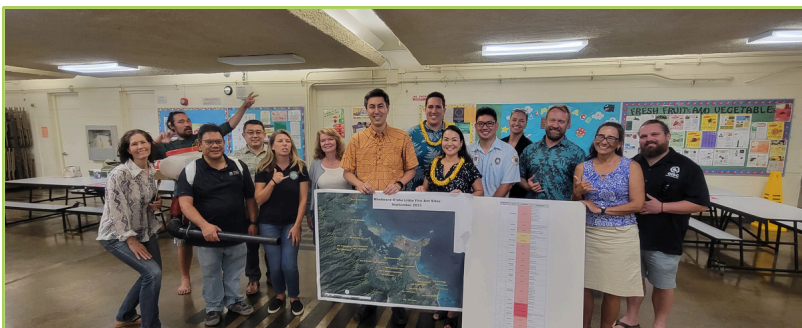
## 2023 OISC PROGRAM GOALS:

OISC outreach program has in-house goals and objectives that align with, and often go above our funding projected outcomes (AKA "deliverables/EOs"). Priority issues and messaging were identified at the beginning of 2023 and a strategy was developed to meet all our in-house and funder goals.

1. Increase awareness and knowledge about miconia impacts on environmental services provided by watersheds in Hawai'i.
2. Increase public understanding of OISC operations and messaging
3. Increase reporting (ED/RR).
4. Support Hawai'i Ant Lab in Little Fire Ant efforts.
5. Maintain and grow social media following and engagement.

## SPECIES MESSEGING: HIGH PRIORITY

- Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*)
- Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)
- Devil Weed (*Chromolaena odorata*)
- Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (*Ceratocystis spp.*)
- Cane Ti (*Tibouchina herbaces*)
- ED/RR - Reporting



OISC staff attended numerous LFA Townhalls in 2023: here staff is pictured at the Kāne'ohe Town Hall hosted by Sen. Keohokalale on 9/20/2023.



OISC staff (L to R): Field Crew Leader, Meleana Kastner and Outreach & Education Associate, Jamie Miller interviewed on KHON's Living 808 on 8/7/2023.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES  
**643-PEST**  
**643pest.org**  
CALL OR CLICK TO PROTECT HAWAII



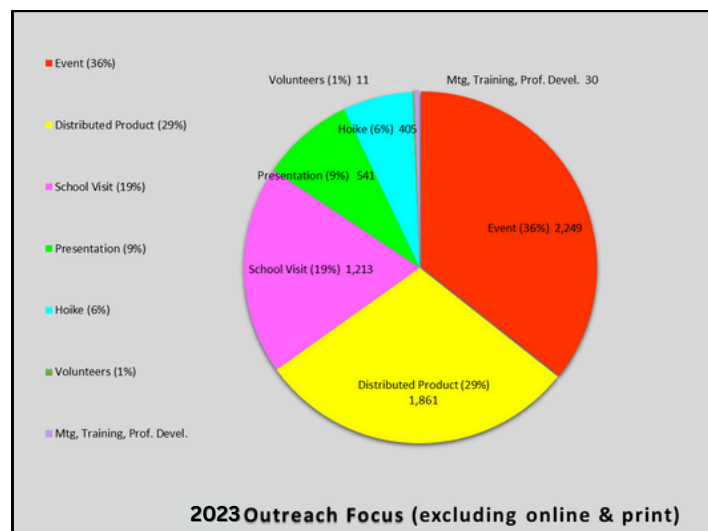
## 2023 COMPLETED OUTREACH: 596,226

The outreach team disseminated our message a total of 596,226 times throughout 2023. Subtracting the audience reached by the Stop the Ant Month ads (421,487) from this total reveals that the outreach for 2023 stood at 174,739. This marked a significant 74% surge from the previous year's total of 43,887.

Key factors contributing to this upsurge in outreach included the KHON “Living 808” interview, the LICH Magazine Article, product distribution efforts, and heightened engagement on social media platforms.

OISC participated in numerous collaborative efforts this year with HISAM 2023, Stop the Ant Month, 'Ōhi'a Love Fest, Earth Month and attended the ROD Outreach Symposium in Hilo (May 2023).

Type	Audience
Article - Ads	421,487
Article - Authored	6,000
Distributed Product	6,099
Events	3,636
Hoike	1,149
Interview	100,302
Meeting	34
Presentation	696
Professional Development	71
School Visits	1,492
Social Media (engagement)	41,944
Volunteer Trip (OISC)	31 (261.5hrs)
Volunteer Trip (AAP)	10
Website	13,240
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>596,226</b>



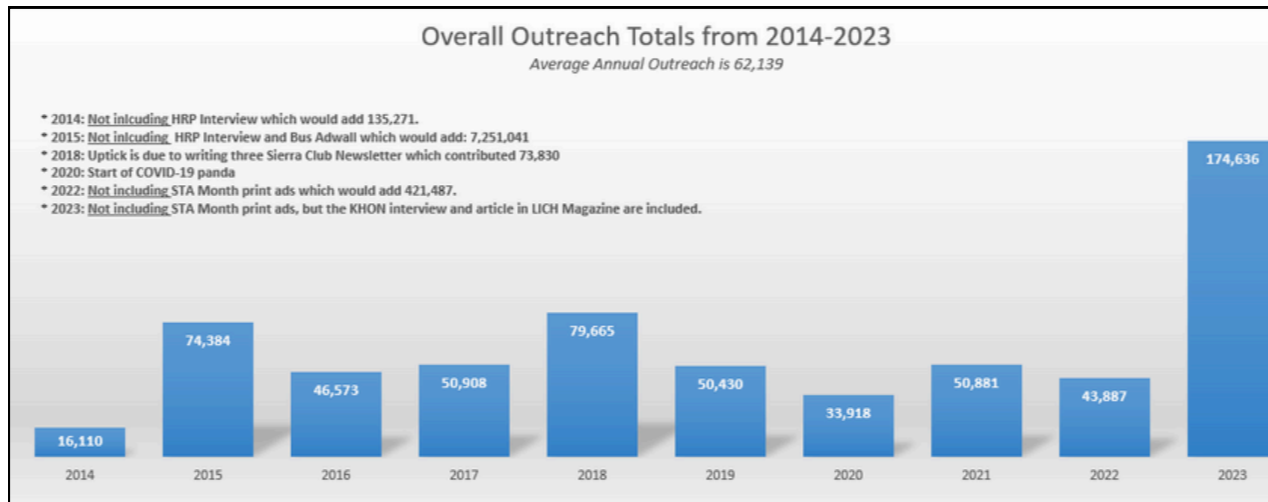
Detailed table of 2023 outreach in Appendix 1



OISC Outreach Team at the 2023 ROD Outreach Workshop, Hilo, HI.

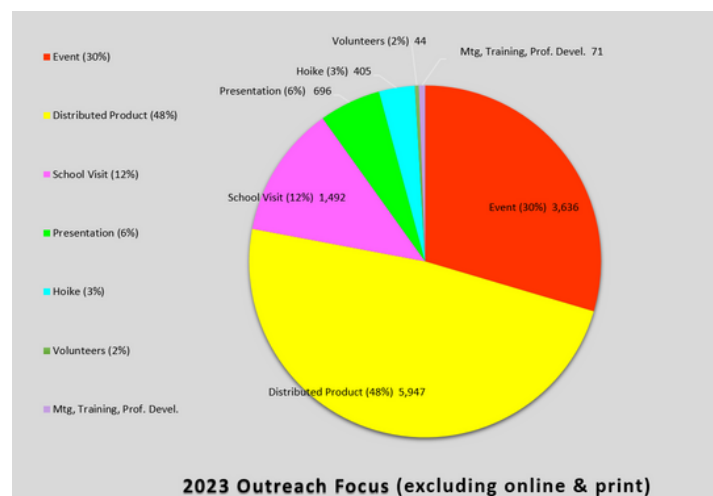


**OVER THE YEARS:** On average, outreach totals are around 62,000 annually. Some huge estimates spike totals when doing radio interviews or mass print ads...but those have been teased out (as described in the chart) to get a more realistic overview. In 2023, the audience reached with the KHON Living 808 interview and LICH magazine article were kept in the total since those topics were directly related to OISC outreach efforts.

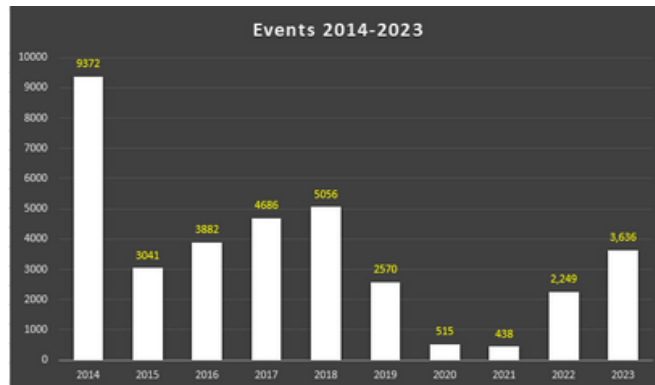


The primary outreach methods utilized for both OISC objectives and fundraising initiatives include events, community presentations, school visits, social media engagement, website utilization, and volunteer programs. Additionally, secondary outreach methods encompass written articles, radio or television interviews, print advertisements, and product distribution. Although the latter garners broader reach and increased engagement, the efficacy of the outreach primarily focuses on raising awareness of the issues rather than facilitating a deep understanding of the problem and the necessary actions to address it.

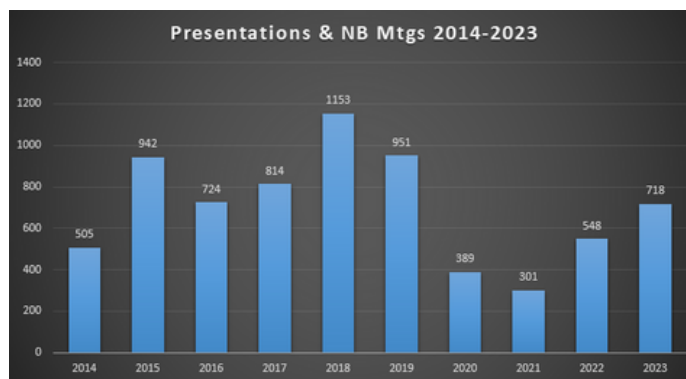
When used collectively, employing diverse messaging techniques can efficiently prompt desired actions, such as reporting incidents, advocating for legislative support, securing access for field operations, or promoting practices like decontamination.



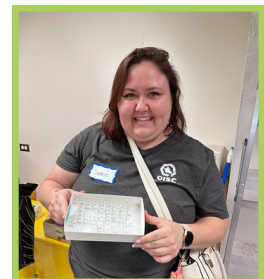
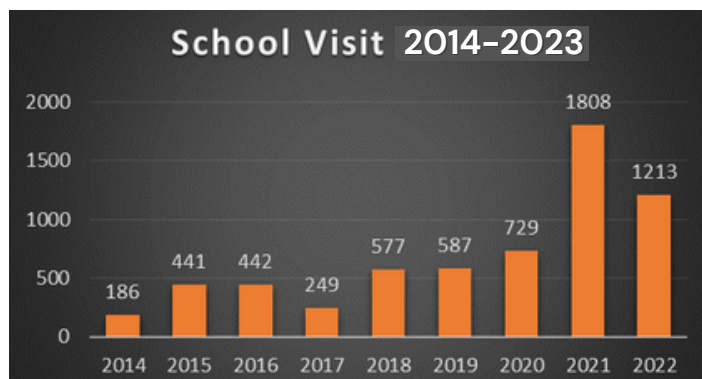
OISC attended **35 unique events, reaching 3,636 people** in 2023 reaching approximately 3,636 people. We are pleased to see our outreach is climbing back towards pre-COVID rates. Events attended this year include the Pest World Conference and HI Pet Expo.



OISC reached over **700 people with 25 unique community groups** in 2023 including LICH Conference, DOD Pesticide Training, Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture Conference, and numerous town hall and neighborhood board meetings.

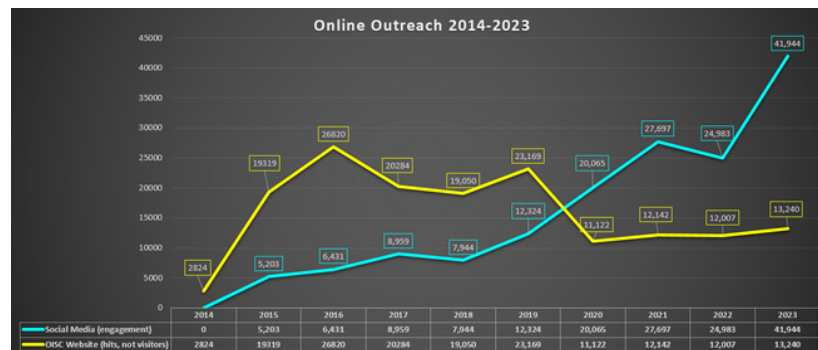


OISC delivered presentations to fifty classes at K-12 and university levels, engaging with 1,213 students across 20 schools in 2023. The Hō'ike LFA Activity is separately accounted for and is not included in the school visits data.



**OISC OUTREACH TOTALS -2023**

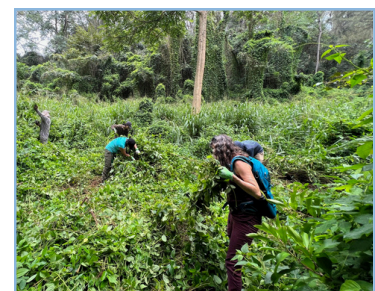
The OISC website encountered a significant decline in traffic in 2019 and has since sustained lower visitor numbers. Last updated in 2014, the website became outdated and lacked mobile responsiveness. Towards the end of the current year, OISC initiated a website redesign in collaboration with Websites with Aloha. The relaunch, scheduled for 2024, aims to deliver a more mobile-friendly, succinct, and user-centric website. Additionally, the revamped site will feature additional pages showcasing community initiatives focused on addressing invasive species.



Throughout the year, OISC monitors our online presence closely. We have observed a consistent growth in our social media reach. After appointing the OISC Outreach & Education Associate to handle social media, we have noticed an increase in interactions. This report includes details on OISC's social media strategy and performance metrics.

**V**olunteer programs at OISC have evolved over the years. Currently, OISC has partnered with HI State Parks Adopt-A-Park program that allows us to conduct volunteer trips at Pūpūkea-Paumālu State Park Reserve. In 2023, we conducted ten trips, dedicating 181.5 hours to survey 71 acres and removed 1533 devil weed plants, 4 of which were mature.

In addition to monthly AAP trips, OISC devil weed crew added 80 hours to survey 141 miles of trails and remove 811 plants. OISC also partnered with MCBH to survey for devil weed at Camp Smith.



OISC volunteers with the Adopt-A-Park program at Pūpūkea-Paumālu (devil weed surveys).

# DWC

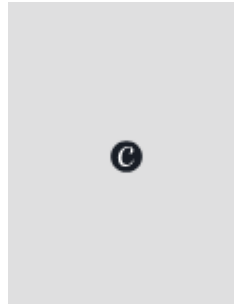
Beginning in 2021, COVID-19 restrictions and PCSU's new volunteer policy had significant impacts on how we conduct volunteer opportunities. To compensate, OISC developed the self-led volunteer program "Devil Weed Crew (DWC)" implemented and revamped with a "DWC Challenge" in 2022 to include incentives such as stickers, cups, and t-shirts. We launched another challenge in late summer 2023, but promotion for the challenge lagged as little fire ant outreach took priority. The majority of data is from Conservation Dogs of Hawai'i and we continue to get requests for DWC Field Guides, mailing out 13 guides in 2023.



How to use AllTrails to record & report surveys.



2023 Devil Weed Crew	
Volunteer Hours	80
DWC Guides Mailed	13
Unique Trails	9
Miles of trails	141
Hours	80
Unique Vols	6
Imm	777
Mat	34

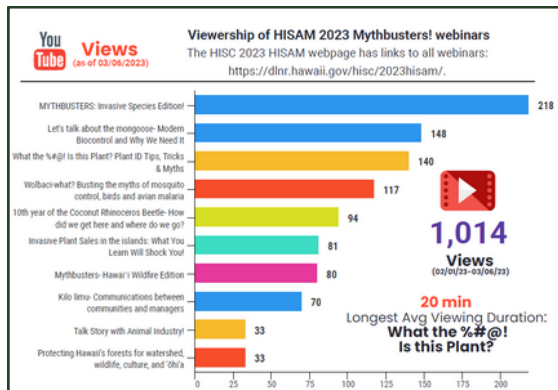


## Devil Weed Crew

- Launched in February 2021.
- Annual Summertime DWC Challenge
  - Survey 5 mi...get a hat (gave away 7 since 2021, 1 in 2023)
  - Survey 15 mi...get a 20oz tumbler. (gave away 7 since 2021, 1 in 2023)
  - Survey 20 mi...get a t-shirt.(gave away 3 since 2021, 1 in 2023)
- List of trails to be surveyed on website (kept up to date with latest surveys).
- Look-a-like guide for volunteers upon request (114 since 2021, 13 in 2023).
- Rack card on how to use the AllTrails app to survey.
- Five (5) videos for YouTube
  - DEVIL WEED SEEDS AND FLOWERS
  - DEVIL WEED CREW...HOW TO FOR EARLY DETECTION TRAIL SURVEYS FOR DEVIL WEED
  - DEVIL WEED CREW VOLUNTEER PRESENTATION
  - ID ME CHROMOLAENA ODOARATA
  - INVASIVE SPECIES AND AGRICULTURE: A CLOSER LOOK AT DEVIL WEED



**T**he Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) is an annual campaign organized by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), in which OISC participates. Overall, HISAM 2023 hosted 10 webinars and live feeds during the month of February. There were a total of 342 live participants and 1,014 views on YouTube.



During HISAM, OISC participated in 3 HISAM Webinars; "Mythbusters", "Wolbaci-what?", and "Invasive Plant Sales in the Islands".

- Links to HISC 2023 HISAM webinars: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/2023hisam/>.
- Link to HISAM 2023 Stats Report: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gkbn7i83HZr\\_gjluCCU109kZpc71BqnkG/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Gkbn7i83HZr_gjluCCU109kZpc71BqnkG/view?usp=sharing).

**W**atershed Curriculum developed by OISC in early 2019 is designed for students grades 3-5 and adheres to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). The lesson consists of four sections; Plants, Watersheds, Hawaiian Land Divisions, and Threats. Each section is accompanied by a recorded webinar, PowerPoint, classroom activity, and three vocabulary worksheets.

The Watershed Curriculum is available for download on OISC Website and links are posted on the Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA) website and the ClimbHI Bridge, an online portal that connects businesses, educators, and students. OISC also attended the HaSTA Conference on Sept. 16, 2023 promoting the Watershed Curriculum. The curriculum has been viewed on OISC website 208 times in 2023, and 902 times since it was posted in 2019.

*\*The Hawaii Environmental Education Alliance (HEEA) has not been consistently active since 2018. Updates to their website have lapsed and it is unclear whether or not they have any active staff.*



- OISC: <http://www.oahuisc.org/watershed-curriculum/>
- ClimbHI Bridge: <https://climbhi.org/portals/>
- HaSTA: <https://hasta.wildapricot.org/Learning-Resources>
- \* <http://heea.org/resource/about.aspx?s=131711.0.0.89929>: LINK NO LONGER WORKING

**Stop the Ant Month** (STA) is an annual statewide outreach campaign led by CGAPS with each island's ISC taking leads for their respective county. The actionable request to the public was to request an ant collection kit and submit ants for identification. On O'ahu, distributed kits increased by 41% from last year, kit requests by mail decreased by 16%, and samples submitted increased by 9%. This shows that even though kit requests dropped a bit, samples submitted and kits distributed are increasing.



Kits Requested	Oct 2021	Oct 2022	Oct 2023	% increase of Oct from 2022
Hawaii Is	68	126	203	38%
Maui	23	135	35	-286%
Oahu	224	340	294	-16%
Kauai	18	98	300	67%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>333</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>18%</b>

STA Month October 2023	Kits Requested 2023	Samples Submitted 2023	Return Rate 2023
Hawaii Is	203	26	13%
Maui	35	62	177%
<b>Oahu</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>31%</b>
Kauai	300	15	5%
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>832</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>23%</b>

Outreach Type (Oct. STA Month)	Type Total
Article/Print (Star & Midweek)	421,487
Distributed Product (294 mailed LFA KITS)	832
Events (4)	221
Hoike (4) Sept 1-Oct 31	151
Presentation (4)	175
School Visit (1)	115
Social Media (posts)	11
Social Media (engagement)	9%
Social Media (reach)	5,993
Samples Submitted	92
Legislator Outreach	30

OISC was responsible for creating and placing ads in a Sunday Star-Advertiser and printing of The Midweek. OISC conducted 4 Hō'ike LFA Activities during October and some part 2 of the activity carried into November. OISC sent LFA updates and STA Month letters to 30 C&C and State Legislators, providing them with outreach materials to share with their constituents. OISC also created social media templates for the statewide group and had nearly 6,000 engagements across our social media platforms.

**OCTOBER IS...  
STOP THE ANT MONTH!**

*CHECK YOUR PLANTS FOR STINGING ANTS!*



Little Fire Ants (LFA) are one of the world's WORST invasive species as they are spreading.

Eradication may still be possible, but we need your help to find them.

**GET YOUR FREE ANT COLLECTION KIT TODAY!**

[WWW.STOPTHEANT.ORG](http://WWW.STOPTHEANT.ORG)

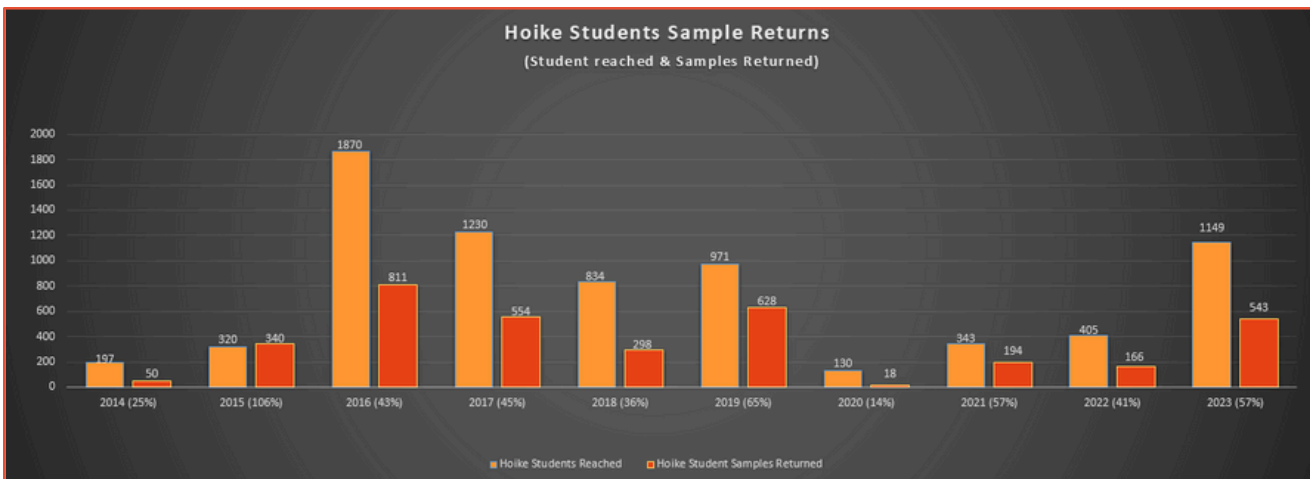
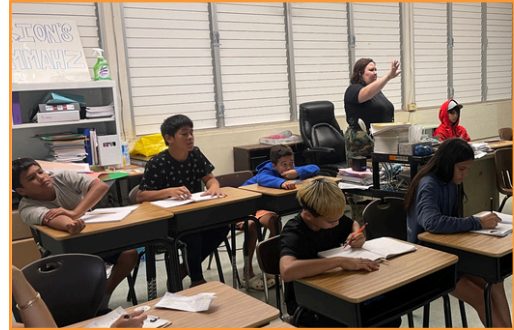
**OR CALL: 808-286-4616**



Ad in the Star Advertiser (10/8/23) and Midweek (10/18/24).

**Hō'ike LFA Activity Update:** The Hō'ike initiative shows signs of recovery as in-person activities resumed in 2023, garnering significant participation.

The internal target set by the OISC was to reach 12 unique schools, an objective nearly met with 11 schools. In 2023, Jamie Miller conducted the Hō'ike sessions in 77 classrooms, interacting with 1,149 students and collecting 543 ant samples, resulting in a remarkable 57% return rate surpassing our goal of 50%.



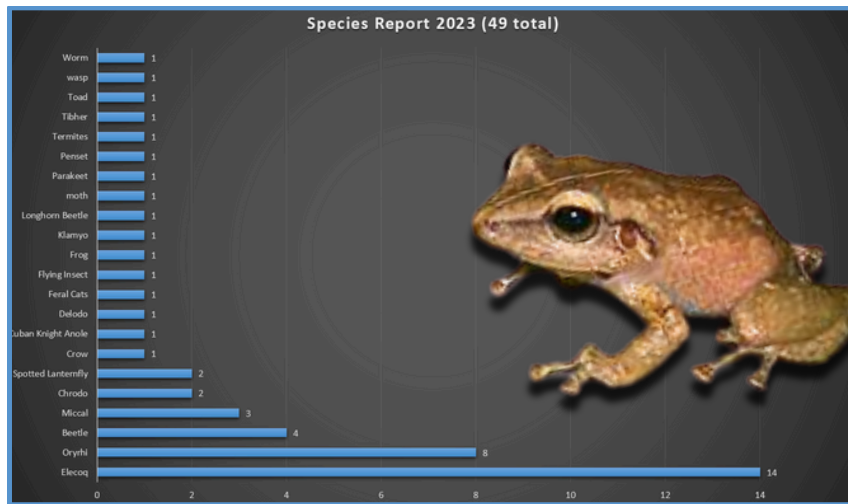
One of the student samples from Kahuku came back positive for LFA. The address is near a known LFA site (Kahuku), but it expanded the intended delimiting area. OISC is working with Hawai'i Ant Lab to plan for future outreach to this site.



Boy Scout Troop participating in the 2022 Hō'ike LFA Activity.

Hō'ike 2023	
Unique schools	11
Students reached	1149
Days	28
# of times presentation given	77
Samples rec'd	543
Return Rate	57%
Pos LFA	1

- **PUBLIC REPORTS:** This year, OISC received 49 public pest reports, not including ROD and LFA reports. The majority of reports were for coqui suspects at 14, with CRB following closely at eight. Out of these reports, 11 pertained to OISC or HDOA targets, and only two miconia reports required action by OISC field crew. These two reports were situated in the Mānoa Valley within our current survey buffer zone. In all other instances, either the species was misidentified or it wasn't a pest that required action.




Actionable Reports 2023 (11)	
Coqui	3
Devil weed (chrodo)	2
CRB (oryrhi)	3
Miconia (miccal)	2
Cuban Knight Anole	1

- **ANTS/LFA:** In 2023, HAL, OISC, or 643Pest received 1,362 inquiries regarding ants or requested an LFA kit. OISC handled 1,331 (98%) of those inquiries and sent out 1,144 kits. Additionally, OISC received 333 ant samples, with 36 positive detections and identifying 16 new sites.

The OISC Outreach staff conducted training and facilitated the testing of over 1,000 donated plants for the Punahou Carnival plant sale, finding no LFA.



Ant Inquiries 2023 	
All Calls	1,362
OISC response	1,331 (98%)
Mailed kits	1,144
Samples (36 pos)	333
Submitted samples using an LFA Kit	267 (80%)
Kit requested AND sample submitted	153 (13%)



**Presentation Evaluations:** Outreach staff sends evaluations to teachers and attendees of our presentations to gauge how our content and messaging are being received. In 2023, our overall performance was evaluated 26 times for 21 unique presentations with an overwhelmingly 95% satisfaction rate. Feedback consistently highlights the popularity of our specimens.

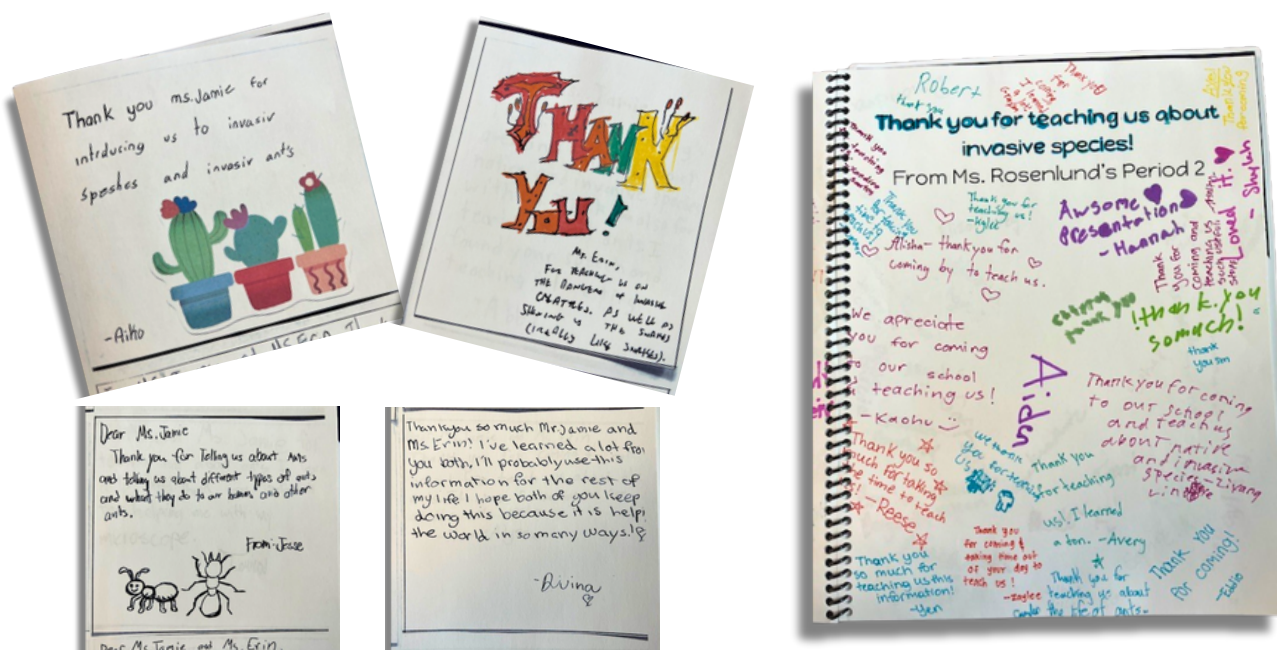
The presenter delivered the material in a clear and structured manner.	The presenter was knowledgeable about the topic and any related issues.	The presenter maintained audience interest during the entire presentation.	The presenter was well organized and prepared.	The presenter was enthusiastic about the topic.	The presenter was confident and well spoken.	The visual aids were effective.	The presentation was concise and informative. Knowledge was imparted.
98%	99%	96%	99%	99%	99%	98%	98%

"Ms. Jamie was engaging and well informed; as well as her slide show presentation. Both students and adults alike can't wait for Ms. Jamie to come back so we can learn more." - Aliamanu Middle School, 7th grade Hō'ike

"Jamie was really great! and my students enjoyed her presentation and activity so much that they told me we should have more speakers like her." - Kahuku Intermediate, 7th grade Hō'ike

"As always, Erin did a wonderful job. The students loved (or were disgusted) with some of the specimens, but that's part of what makes it so engaging. Mahalo nui for coming out and educating my students." - Kamehameha High, 10 grade

"Erin Bishop is consistently one of the most impactful guest lecturers at our pesticide applicator trainings. She has mastered the material and is an exceptional speaker and educator. I am so grateful for Erin's and OISC's support over the years." - NAVFAC Pacific, DOD Pesticide Training



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# 2023 SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE



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Prepared by Jamie Miller, Outreach and Education Associate  
Approved by Erin Bishop, Outreach Coordinator





## INTRODUCTION

Throughout 2023, we continued to share information about the important work we do on O'ahu. Through this effort, we posted a total of 359 times on our combined channels. Last year, we improved our reach, engagement, and fanbase while posting less content. This means we are creating better content more tailored to our audiences!

This report breaks down our messaging and performance on each channel, including goals as we move forward in 2024.

## PROFILES DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT

- @oahuisc Instagram profile
- @oahuisc Facebook profile
- @oahuisc TikTok Profile
- Oah'u Invasive Species Committee YouTube profile



# CROSS-CHANNEL PERFORMANCE

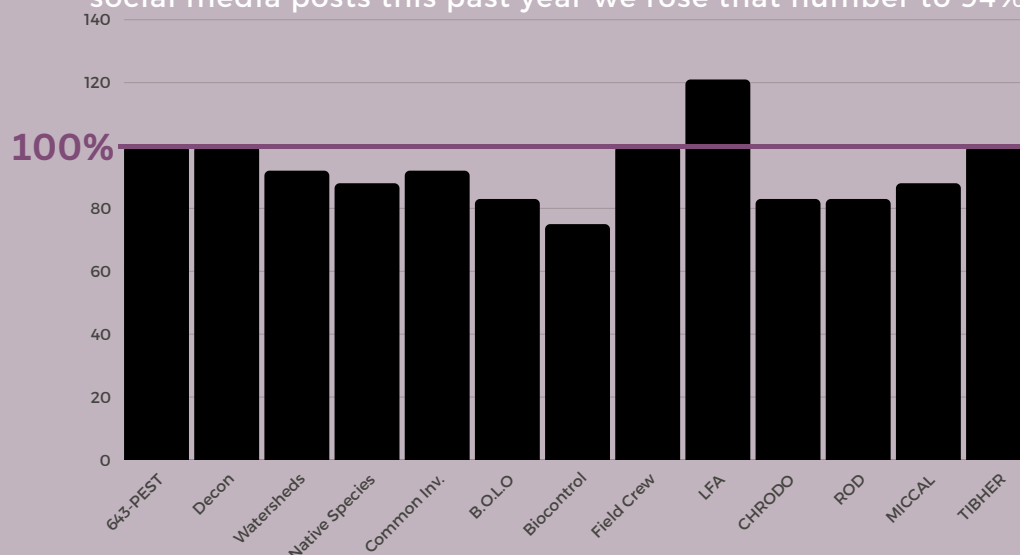
Different platforms offer us various ways to connect with the public online. Depending on the content and observing what performs well on each channel, we determine which platforms are the best for sharing our message. We have a regular audience of almost 7,300 individuals who subscribe to our content. Highlighted below are key metrics for the year, including how many times we mentioned some of our main messages. Areas where we saw increases are highlighted in green and decreases are highlighted in red.

## KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
TOTAL REACH	791,880	165,961
TOTAL POSTS	359	491
TOTAL ENGAGEMENTS	41,927	29,443
TOTAL FAN BASE	7,294	5,721
INCREASE IN FAN BASE	27.50%	15.85%

## KEY MESSAGES OF 2023

In 2022 we met 92% of our goals to talk about key messages through our social media posts this past year we rose that number to 94%!





## INSTAGRAM: STATS AND TRENDS

Instagram remains our best tool for engaging with the public online. Our fan base continues to grow, and in 2023, we surpassed our goal of 4,000 followers! Our top posts this year have numbers that are double or triple those of our top posts from last year. Native plants and short, sweet, useful information were some of the most popular posts in 2023. Despite posting less frequently, we saw an increase in impressions, engagements, and reach! To me, that indicates an improvement in the quality of our content, which is a significant achievement. I look forward to continuing to grow our fan base and reaching 5,000 followers next year, while also fine-tuning our content to better serve our audience.

### Wins for 2023:

- The engagement rate remained consistent.
  - Range **3% - 12%** with Avg. **8%**
  - Avg in 2022 was **8%**
- Engaged an avg. of **1131** accounts/mo.
- Easy to read shareable graphics.
- **398,000+** Impressions. That is how many times our content was seen. This includes accounts that saw the same content more than once. That is up from 288,000+ impressions last year.

### Goals we met in 2023:

- New icons and organization for the story threads that live on our home page.
- Increase Reel creation! Our goal was **12** and we made **21**.
- Increase fan base to **4,000** followers.

### Goals to meet in 2024:

- Try collaborating with 2 new profiles of popular conservation creators.
- Increase reel creation to 24.
- Increase fan base to 5,000 followers.

IG STATS	2023
Total Posts	139
Total Stories Posted	632
Engagements	31,722
Impressions	398,209
Total Followers	4,062
Average Reach Each Month	7,345

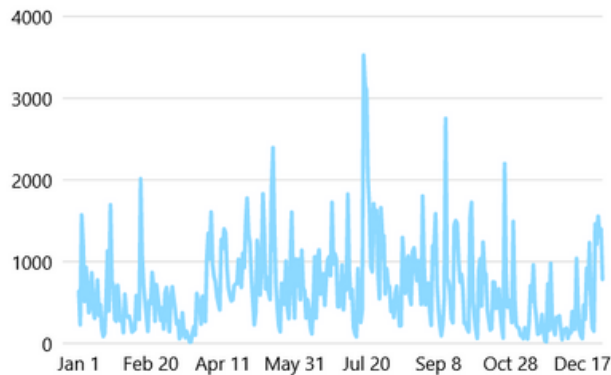
LAST YEAR IG STATS	2022
Total Posts	170
Total Stories Posted	403
Engagements	18,555
Impressions	288,000
Total Followers	3,172
Average Reach Each Month	6,497



# INSTAGRAM: STATS AND TRENDS

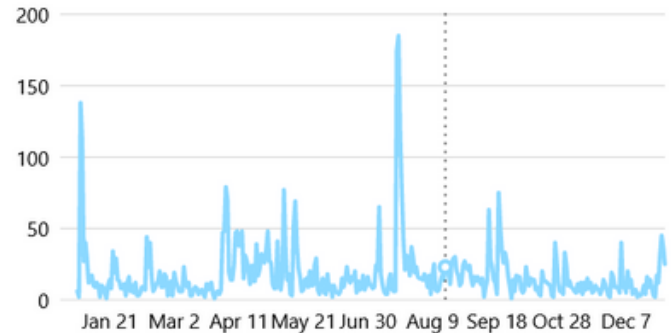
## Instagram reach ⓘ

47.0K ↑ 3.3%



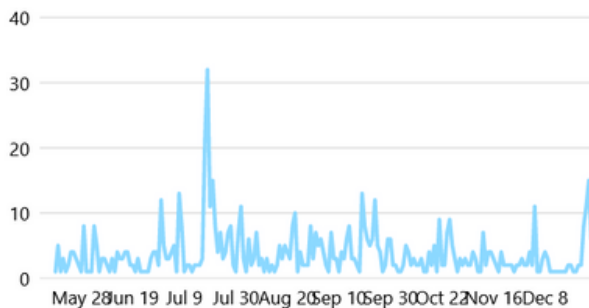
## Instagram profile visits ⓘ

6,397 ↑ 40.7%



## New Instagram followers ⓘ

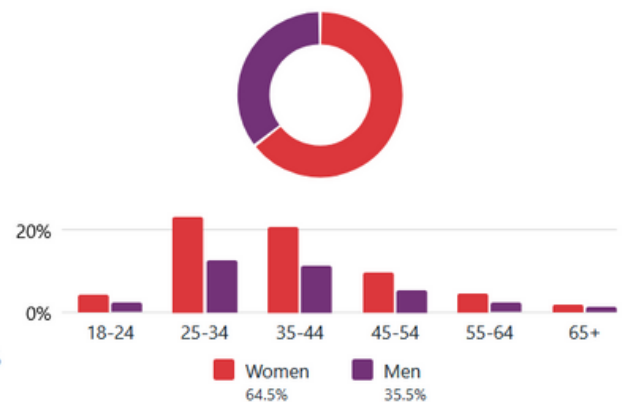
793 \_



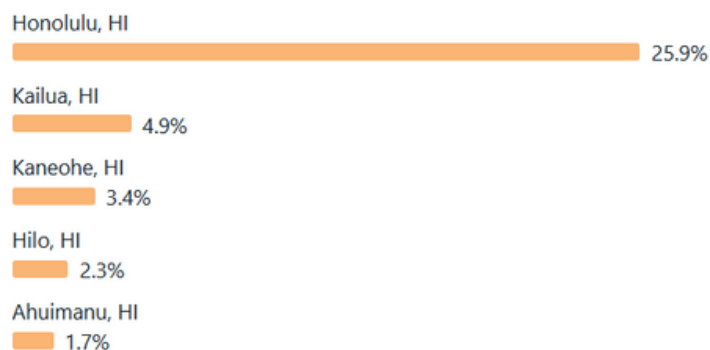
## Instagram followers ⓘ

4,136

## Age & gender ⓘ



## Top cities





# **INSTAGRAM: TOP POSTS**

These were the top posts of 2023 based on likes.

	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>Kick off NHPM Reel with Jazzy Notorius BIG Song</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 718</li> <li>• Comments: 4</li> <li>• Shares: 48</li> <li>• Reach: 6,254</li> </ul>		<p><b>2</b></p> <p><b>Native Hawaiian Plant Color Pallettes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 666</li> <li>• Comments: 24</li> <li>• Shares: 90</li> <li>• Reach: 4,946</li> </ul>
	<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b>West Indian Wood Nettle Sold as Māmaki</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 610</li> <li>• Comments: 34</li> <li>• Shares: 138</li> <li>• Reach: 4,053</li> </ul>		<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b>'Ōhi'a Narrative 1st Person</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 559</li> <li>• Comments: 12</li> <li>• Shares: 100</li> <li>• Reach: 2,325</li> </ul>
	<p><b>5</b></p> <p><b>Centipede in 'Ōhi'a Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 526</li> <li>• Comments: 63</li> <li>• Shares: 269</li> <li>• Reach: 5,288</li> </ul>		<p><b>6</b></p> <p><b>Weekly Dose of Views from the Bird</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 483</li> <li>• Comments: 15</li> <li>• Shares: 12</li> <li>• Reach: 2,477</li> </ul>
	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>Healthy watersheds are one of Hawaii's most important resources!</b></p> <p><b>Waterfall Reel</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 443</li> <li>• Comments: 2</li> <li>• Shares: 28</li> <li>• Reach: 3,595</li> </ul>		<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>Invasive Species Highlight Guinea Grass</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 372</li> <li>• Comments: 47</li> <li>• Shares: 12</li> <li>• Reach: 2,434</li> </ul>
	<p><b>9</b></p> <p><b>June 2023 LFA Detections</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 365</li> <li>• Comments: 31</li> <li>• Shares: 230</li> <li>• Reach: 5,658</li> </ul>		<p><b>10</b></p> <p><b>B.O.L.O. Spotted Lanternfly</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes; 334</li> <li>• Comments: 12</li> <li>• Shares: 104</li> <li>• Reach: 2,392</li> </ul>

## FACEBOOK: STATS AND TRENDS

Facebook continues to prove itself as a vital tool for sharing information, especially for longer posts with multiple links (on Instagram, you can only share one link). Similar to Instagram, we posted less content this year (20% fewer posts). With our fan base continuing to grow and our content more finely tuned, we witnessed significant improvements in statistics in 2023 compared to 2022. We are experiencing much higher engagement with our content and received **over 900 shares**, which is double the amount from 2022.

### Wins for 2023:

- We received about **1,400 link clicks** on links within our content.
- Reached an avg. of **1,845 accounts per post**. That is 6x the number from last year.
- We only had **22 unfollows** all year.

### Goals for 2024:

- Learn how to prevent spam comments
- Make webinar ads more engaging.
- 3,000 followers
- To have another viral post that gets a ton of reach. See below...

### One post that stands out based on reach:



#### Strawberry Guava Biocontrol

- Likes: 104
- Comments: 31
- Shares: 20
- Reach: 179,982

Our strawberry guava post may rank fourth in most-liked posts, but it went viral when you consider its reach. This post was shared 20 times, including in the Facebook group 808 Green Thumbs (a private group with almost 20,000 members), earning it a reach of almost 180,000. That one post alone accounted for 53% of our reach for the year. So crazy!

FB STATS	2023
Total Posts	185
Total Post Shares	911
Engagements	8,589
Average Reach Each Month	28,441
Total Followers	2,636

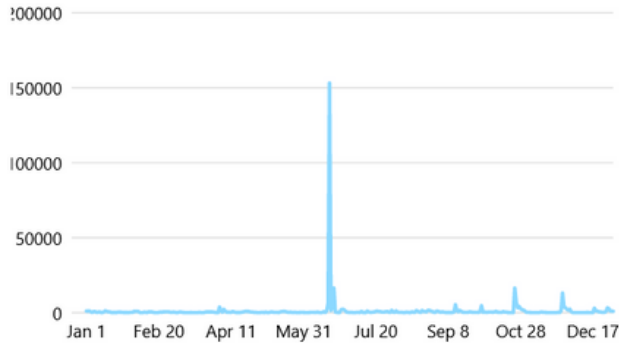
FB STATS	2022
Total Posts	230
Total Post Shares	417
Engagements	4,677
Average Reach Each Month	5,629
Total Followers	2,230



# FACEBOOK: STATS AND TRENDS

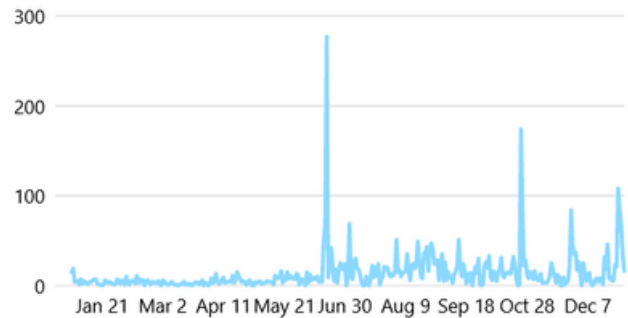
## Facebook reach ⓘ

293.4K ↑ 556.7%



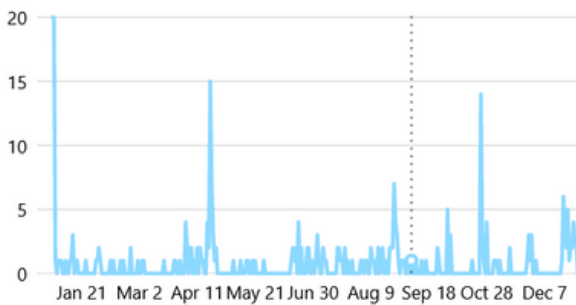
## Facebook visits ⓘ

4,754 ↑ 436.6%



## Facebook Page new likes ⓘ

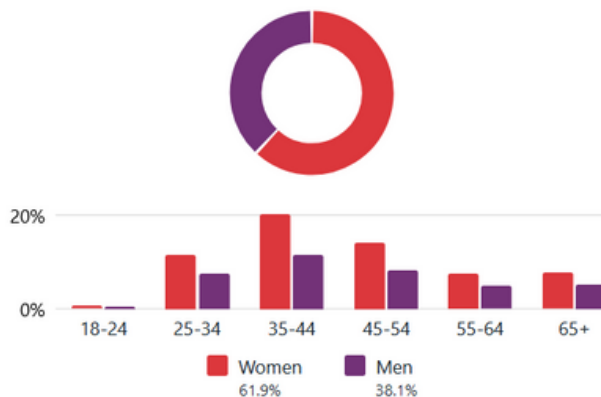
290 ↑ 35.5%



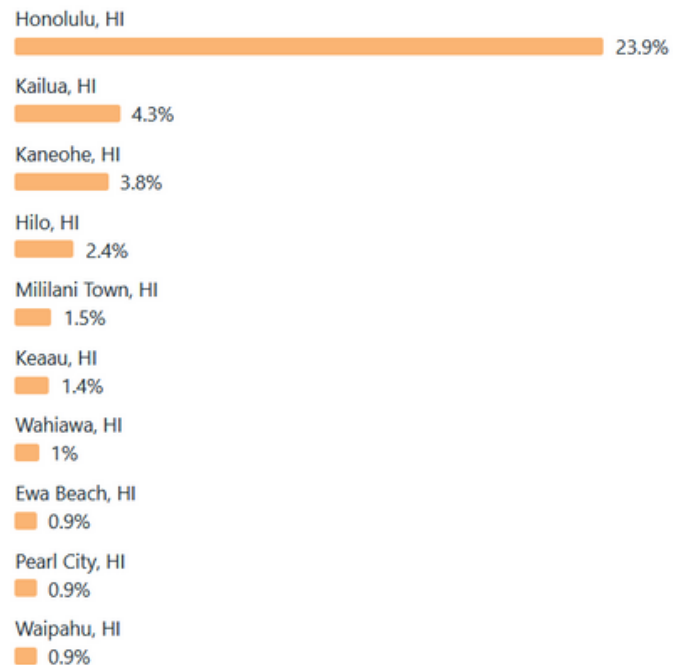
## Facebook followers ⓘ

2,664

## Age & gender ⓘ



## Top cities



# FACEBOOK: TOP POSTS

These were the top posts of 2023 based on likes aka reactions.

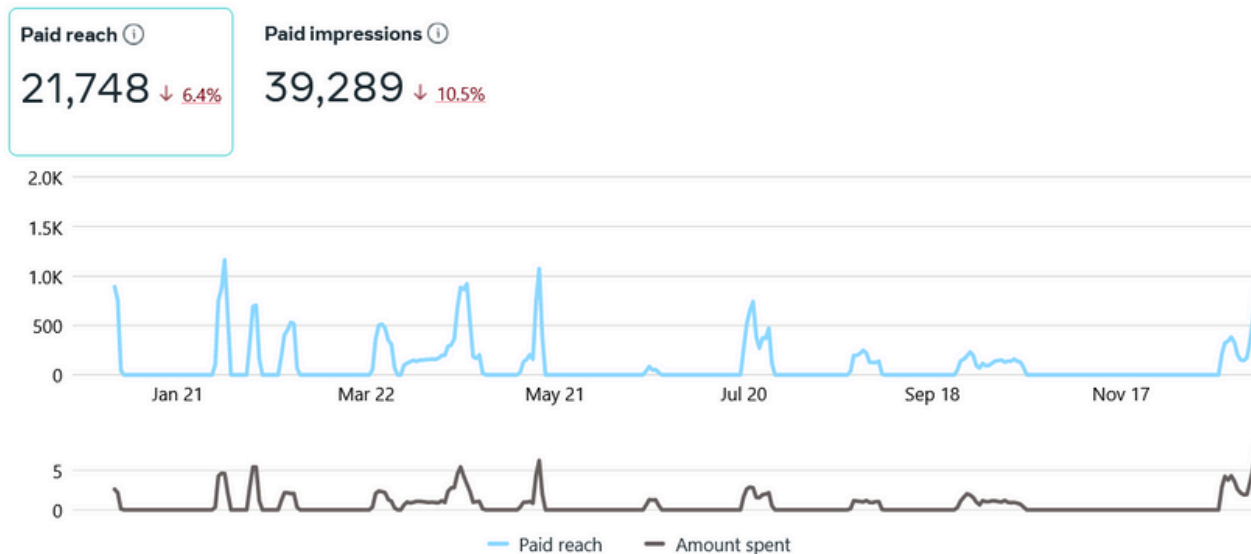
<p>1</p> 	<p><b>Mean Mug Cane Ti in Native Forest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 262</li> <li>• Comments: 24</li> <li>• Shares: 25</li> <li>• Reach: 26,664</li> </ul>	<p>2</p> 	<p><b>West Indian Wood Nettle Sold as Māmaki</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 134</li> <li>• Comments: 31</li> <li>• Shares: 170</li> <li>• Reach: 36,734</li> </ul>
<p>3</p> 	<p><b>Centipede in 'Ōhi'a Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 112</li> <li>• Comments: 27</li> <li>• Shares: 32</li> <li>• Reach: 9,550</li> </ul>	<p>4</p> 	<p><b>Strawberry Guava Biocontrol</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 104</li> <li>• Comments: 31</li> <li>• Shares: 20</li> <li>• Reach: 179,982</li> </ul>
<p>5</p> 	<p><b>PK and Cane Ti Elimination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 86</li> <li>• Comments: 5</li> <li>• Shares: 4</li> <li>• Reach: 920</li> </ul>	<p>6</p> 	<p><b>Staining &amp; Sampling on ROD Positive Tree</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 58</li> <li>• Comments: 3</li> <li>• Shares: 4</li> <li>• Reach: 5,371</li> </ul>
<p>7</p> 	<p><b>NSM, Medinilla, and Melastomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 56</li> <li>• Comments: 12</li> <li>• Shares: 6</li> <li>• Reach: 4,340</li> </ul>	<p>8</p> 	<p><b>'Ōhi'a Narrative 1st Person</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 54</li> <li>• Comments: 7</li> <li>• Shares: 62</li> <li>• Reach: 9,035</li> </ul>
<p>9</p> 	<p><b>Sleeping Grass Invasive Highlight</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 50</li> <li>• Comments: 11</li> <li>• Shares: 10</li> <li>• Reach: 2,954</li> </ul>	<p>10</p> 	<p><b>Last Known Glory Bush Removed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Likes: 50</li> <li>• Comments: 7</li> <li>• Shares: 14</li> <li>• Reach: 1,737</li> </ul>

## AD BOOST

Throughout the year, we use funds to boost some of our social media posts to reach more of our target audiences. We prioritize spending this money on posts with higher priority messages. In 2023, we spent a **total of \$230 on boosting posts** on Instagram and Facebook, compared to **\$290 in 2021**. These funds helped us reach a total of **21,748 additional accounts**. Many of these accounts are from people who do not already follow us, which serves as a useful tool for growing our fanbase.

Month	Budget (\$)	Spent
Jan	15.00	10.98
Feb	40.00	42.58
Mar	15.00	11.51
Apr	45.00	48.04
May	15.00	17.68
Jun	15.00	5.23
Jul	15.00	20.70
Aug	15.00	6.94
Sep	30.00	6.42
Oct	50.00	21.60
Nov	15.00	0.00
Dec	15.00	37.94
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>285.00</b>	<b>229.62</b>

For 2024, I would like to maintain the budget at \$300. In 2023, we initially allocated \$250 and reserved \$50 for flexible spending. This approach enabled us to adjust our budget as needed, resulting in a total expenditure of \$230. Toward the end of the year, I did not utilize as much of the budget as I could have for boosting posts. This resulted in not utilizing the full \$300 we could have. My goal for 2024 is to come closer to fully utilizing the \$300 budget by year-end.





## TIKTOK: STATS AND TRENDS

On TikTok in 2023, we did not post as much as I had anticipated, but we still experienced significant increases in statistics. Our total likes rose by 395%, and our video views surged by 770%! Most of the increase in views stemmed from a single video in November, describing Miconia and its impacts. It was captured in the field and narrated by Mele Ana. That video alone garnered 39.8K views!

TIKTOK STATS	2023	TIKTOK STATS	2022
Total Posts	9	Total Posts	9
Total Likes	648	Total Likes	131
Video Views	43,320	Video Views	5,626
Total Followers	478	Total Followers	456



## YOUTUBE: STATS AND TRENDS

Once again on YouTube, we witnessed growth in our channel despite not actively engaging with it. YouTube continues to serve as an educational hub for our longer videos, offering content that differs significantly from other platforms. Frequently, we use our other platforms to direct followers to our YouTube channel, where they can access presentations, identification videos, and more. Although we only uploaded one video last year, our total views increased by 17%, and our watch time rose by 31%. Next year, we plan to enhance our video content and expand our YouTube channel.

YOUTUBE STATS	2023	YOUTUBE STATS	2022
Total Posts	1	Total Posts	1
Total Views	1,294	Total Views	1,102
Watch Time (Hours)	49.8	Watch Time (Hours)	38.1
Total Subscribers	43	Total Subscribers	35



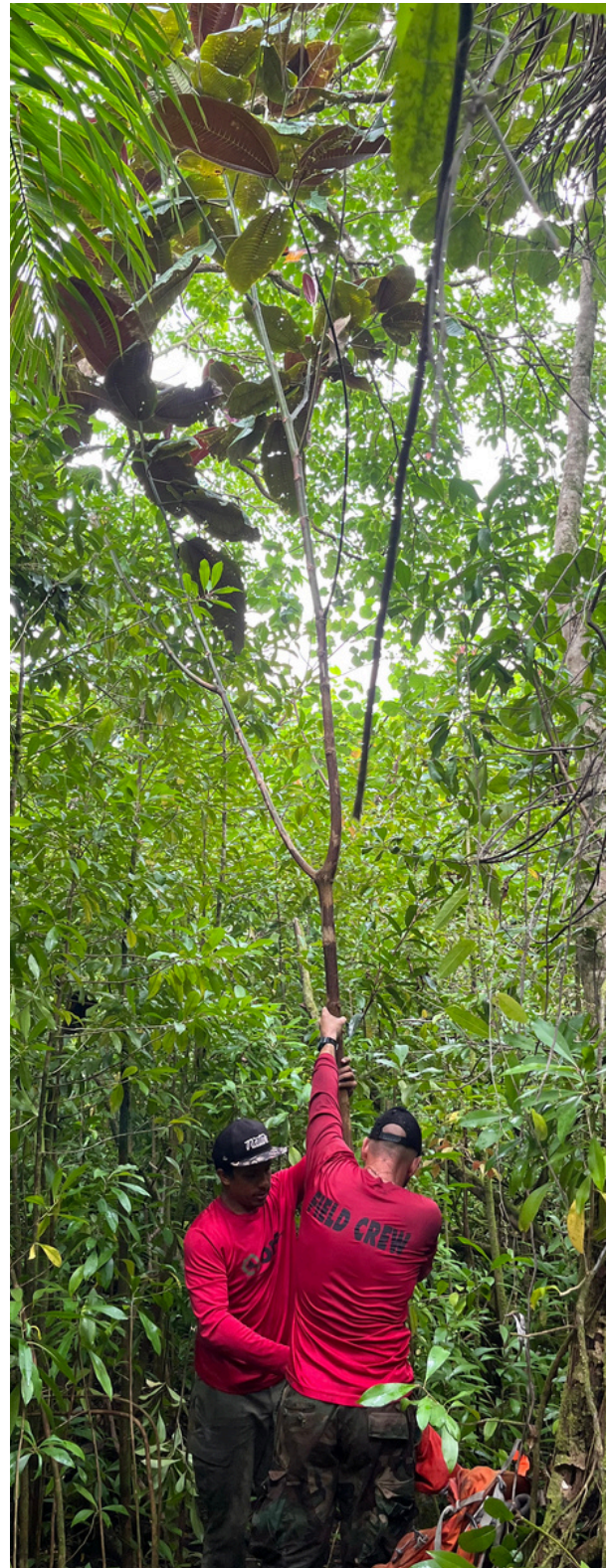


## LOOKING FORWARD

Looking forward to 2024, we will continue to use social media to spread awareness and gain support for the important work we do. We aim to expand our video content across all platforms, including YouTube. Additionally, I intend to strengthen our outreach relationship with the field crew and improve our photo content. The more we can collaborate with them to identify the types of photos and videos that resonate best, the better equipped they will be to gather top-notch content.

## FOCUSED GOALS

- Growing our fanbase on all platforms.
- Taking a class in May from Olelo on creating video content with your cellphone.
- Continuing to use the goal tracking sheet.
- Creating more engagement with field crew and photo-taking.
- Continuing to align messaging with the current objectives of our organization.
- Posting less while maintaining the same level of reach and engagement.



# APPENDIX...DETAILS OF ALL OUTREACH 2023

## TOTAL REACH: 596,226

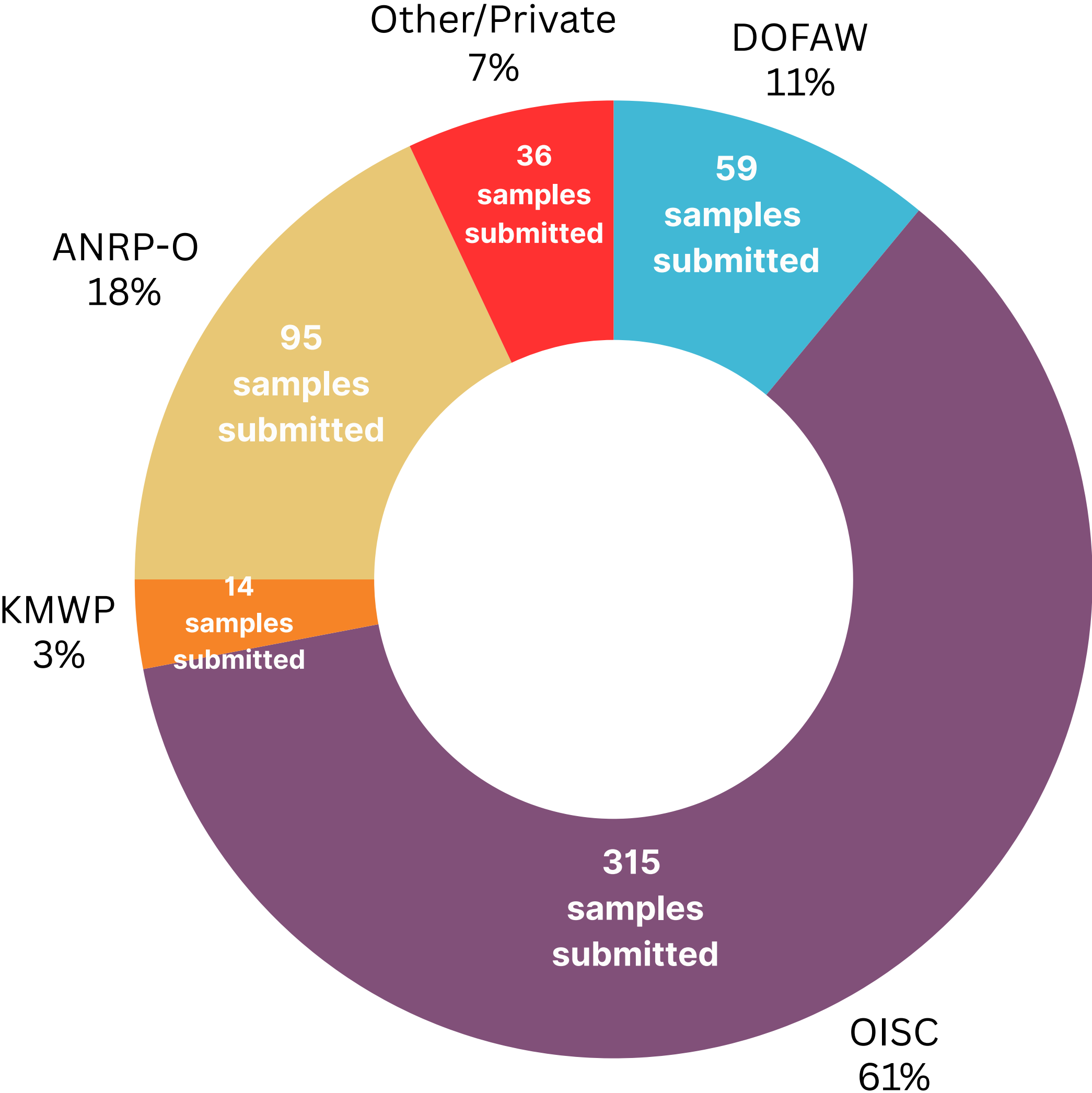
<b>Article - authored</b>	<b>427487</b>
Two (2)LFA Ads for STA Month and Pampas grass article in LICH	
<b>Distributed Product</b>	<b>6099</b>
DWC Guides	13
LFA Kits Passed Out	2352
LFA Kits Mailed	1144
LFA Postcard	2590
<b>Event</b>	<b>3636</b>
(35 events over 39 days)	
<b>Hoihe</b>	<b>1149</b>
11 schools	
28 days to 77 classrooms	
543 samples (57% return)	
<b>Interview</b>	<b>100302</b>
KHON - LFA	
KITV - West Indian Wood nettle	
KHON - Living 808 - OISC	
KITV-Evening News-LFA Oahu	
<b>Meeting</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>696</b>
27 presentations to 25 unique groups	
<b>Professional Development</b>	<b>71</b>
Attended ROD Outreach Symposium (Hilo)	
HAL Ant ID, Apimel, and CRB training	
<b>School Visit</b>	<b>1492</b>
Presented to 50 classes at 20 unique schools	
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>41944</b>
Avg Annual Engagement rate across all platforms	8%
New Followers	1860
Posts	359
<b>Volunteer Trip OISC (hrs.)</b>	<b>261.5</b>
OISC vols hrs.	181.5
DWC hrs.	80
DWC Miles surveyed	141
71 acres	71
Imm	2306
Mat	38
<b>Volunteer Trip Other</b>	<b>31</b>
Partnered with MCBH and Waihee Community	
<b>Website</b>	<b>13240</b>
<b>Total</b>	596,226 encounters/message delivered
	174,739 w/out STA ads

**Link to Google Drive for detailed outreach information:**

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m0yT-b\\_LfcTIXkVI2Y6urjAGfkb9I5mu/edit?usp=drive\\_link&ouid=108814632114028959927&rtopf=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m0yT-b_LfcTIXkVI2Y6urjAGfkb9I5mu/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=108814632114028959927&rtopf=true&sd=true)

# Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD)

Samples submitted (%) by Organization



ORGANIZATION ACRONYM LEGEND

- OISC:** O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
- HDOA:** Hawaii Dept. of Agriculture
- DOFAW:** Dept. of Forestry & Wildlife
- KMWP:** Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership
- ANRP-O:** Army Natural Resources Program on O'ahu
- Other:** Private landowners who sampled independently

# **ORGANIZATION ACRONYM LEGEND**

**OISC:** O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

**HDOA:** Hawaii Department of Agriculture

**DLNR:** Department of Land & Natural Resources

**DOFAW:** Department of Forestry & Wildlife/DLNR

**NEPM:** Native Ecosystem Protection & Management/DOFAW

**KMWP:** Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership

**ANRP-O:** Army Natural Resources Program on O'ahu

**CRB-RT:** Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Team

**Other:** Private landowners & unaffiliated individuals



### PCO vs OISC Response Cost Breakdown

<b>Cost Comparison for one site:</b>			
Aiea Site = 14 properties	14 properties		
PCO quote	\$100/property/month		
Cost per month for treatment	\$1,400		
Cost for 8 PCO treatments (no surveys?)	\$11,200		
<b>OISC Estimates:</b>	<b>High</b> (full 8hr day)	<b>Mid</b> (split difference of 8hr and 5.5hr day)	<b>Low</b> (5.5hr field day estimate)
Person hrs for Aiea (OISC)	8	5.5	3
Person hrs for a full treatment (8 treatments +surveys)	88	60.5	33
Avg OISC Cost per person/hr	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$115.00
Total cost for OISC full treatment	\$10,120	\$6,958	\$3,795
% less than PCO.	9.64%	37.88%	66.12%



## **2023 Report to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council**



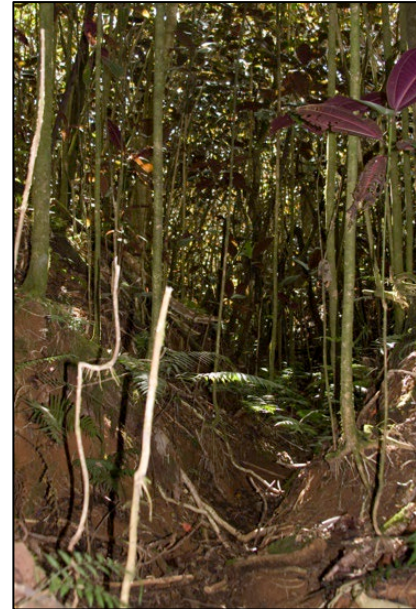
**OISC field staff hiking down Mau'umae ridge from a Himalayan blackberry worksite.**

The O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) protects O‘ahu’s watersheds, ecosystems and agriculture by preventing harm from invasive species before those species become uncontrollable. The OISC field crew conducts surveys and control for invasive species that have not yet become abundant enough to damage the island’s agriculture and ecosystems, but likely would cause harm if not controlled. By removing invasive species before the effects are felt, we can prevent labor-intensive and costly remediation measures later.

OISC operations are guided by the OISC steering committee, which is made up of representatives of conservation organizations and land managers island-wide. Many of the people who serve on OISC’s steering committee today were giving up their weekends to control invasive species as volunteers when OISC was first formed back in 2001. For 2023 operations, HISC awarded OISC \$700,000 for surveys and control of priority invasive species and outreach. OISC raised an additional \$1,298,351 from other sources. The deliverables and accomplishments described below include HISC-funded activities and leveraged funds.

In 2023, OISC continued steady progress towards stopping the spread of incipient invasive species, including: miconia (*Miconia calvescens*), devil weed (*Chromolaena odorata*), cane ti (*Tibouchina herbacea*) Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and Cape ivy (*Delairea odorata*). OISC served as the co-lead for the multi-agency effort across O‘ahu to detect the two fungal pathogens that cause Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death (ROD). In partnering with the Ports of Entry/Exit Monitoring Program (formerly Māmalu Poepoe), OISC facilitated early detection trap checks for coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) and Africanized honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*) [insert additional species] at Honolulu’s Daniel K. Inouye International Airport and Honolulu Harbor. OISC assisted the Hawai‘i Ant Lab (HAL) with little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) surveys and outreach. OISC is the primary outreach agency for little fire ant on O‘ahu and coordinates outreach efforts with the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the Hawai‘i Ant Lab (HAL) and the Coordinating Group for Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) in order to stay ahead of the invasion front. In addition to little fire ant outreach, OISC continued providing vital invasive species information to students, teachers, the landscape industry, recreational groups and other stakeholders throughout the island and state regarding watershed health and OISC target species.

In order to combat the threats posed by these target species, OISC deploys teams of field biologists with expertise in off-trail hiking, survey and control methodologies, helicopter safety, and species identification. Areas with historic species locations and the areas adjacent to historic locations as informed by OISC’s buffering system, are surveyed regularly until regional eradication is achieved. The eradication timeline varies by species and is determined by a number of environmental and biological factors specific to each target species. Typically, field staff will systematically scour survey sites along transects, by ground or air, and will control species immediately upon discovery. This system allows OISC to adapt our strategy to any species that the committee deems necessary for our organization to control.



**Above: Miconia destroys the understory and promotes erosion, this photo is from Tahiti where miconia has taken over vast amounts of forest.**



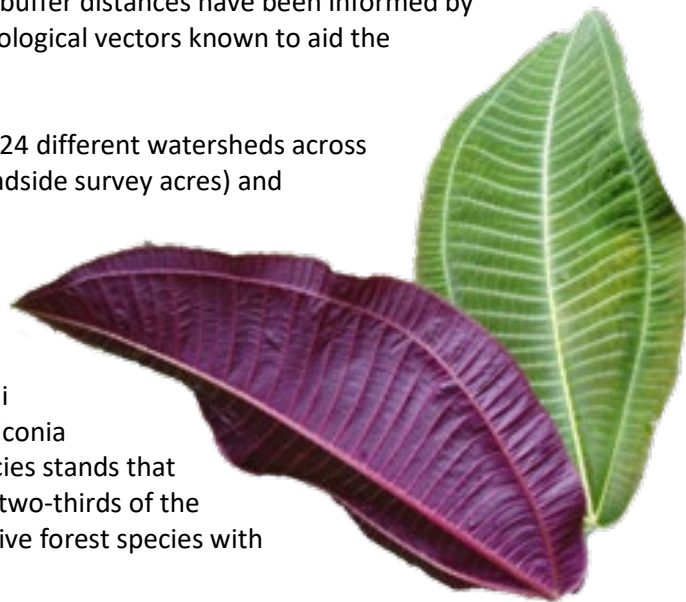
### **Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*)**

Miconia is the highest-priority target for OISC because once established, it will severely degrade O'ahu's watersheds. Miconia's shallow root systems and leaf morphology promote excessive soil runoff during heavy rains by funnelling rainwater to the ground with tremendous force, thereby reducing soil retention. These characteristics indicate that a miconia-dominated forest is more prone to detrimental flooding impacts, including erosion and landslides, moreso than a native-dominated forest. More landslides will mean more opportunities for weed invasion in our upper watersheds and the effects of increased landslides and flooding hazards will be felt throughout communities surrounding forests invaded by miconia.

Miconia incursion will not only harm our terrestrial ecosystems and surrounding communities, but this species will also damage our marine ecosystems. Increased stream sedimentation and stormwater runoff will deposit excessive nutrients and nonpoint source pollution into our nearshore waters, aiding the spread of invasive algae and decreasing prime habitat characteristics for native marine species. Characteristics like higher turbidity and lower dissolved oxygen from excess sedimentation and runoff will push native species out of these areas and invite non native species who thrive in these conditions to invade these areas.

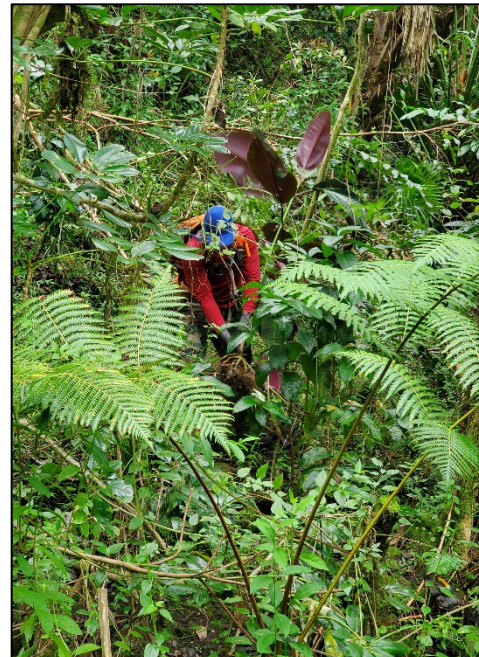
Unfortunately, miconia seeds remain viable in the soil for at least 18 years, making this a project that requires long-term financial commitment. OISC's strategy is to survey the entire estimated seed bank of miconia every two to three years to find and remove trees before they mature. OISC utilizes a 1,600 meter buffering system around known plant locations. The inner 800 meter buffer is surveyed by ground, must be surveyed on a 3-year rotating schedule, and is the preferred method for detecting individual trees. Any areas deemed too steep to safely survey within the 800 meter ground buffer are surveyed by helicopter. The outer 800 meter buffer is surveyed once and then every 7 years when possible. This is the preferred method for detecting stands of miconia that have gone undetected in order to discover any outlier spread. These buffer distances have been informed by dispersal distance analysis and studies on biological vectors known to aid the spread of miconia.

In 2023, OISC conducted miconia surveys in 24 different watersheds across 3,525 acres by ground (including 1,088.2 roadside survey acres) and 4,839 acres by air. Crews controlled 1,814 immature and 5 mature miconia trees in 2023, protecting a total of 8,364 acres of forest across the island over 7,386 total work hours. The mature miconia trees were removed from the Ka'alae'a, Kalihi, Kawainui watersheds. OISC's systematic control of miconia continues preventing the type of single-species stands that occur in Tahiti where this species threatens two-thirds of the forest and is directly threatening 25% of native forest species with extinction.





**Left: staff hold bunches of immature miconia removed from the watershed.**



**Right: staff hand pull a large immature miconia.**

The long-lived seedbank makes this species difficult to eradicate. Trees are sometimes missed because of thick vegetation and we have not been able to meet our goal of preventing maturation of trees in all watersheds. However, we have been able to prevent this species from establishing. When OISC first began surveys in 2002, we removed 40 mature and 3,347 immature trees from 2,042 acres. In 2023, OISC removed 5 mature trees over 8,364 acres, a drop in mature tree densities by 95% since 2002, while reducing the number of mature trees by 87.5% and more than doubling the number of acres surveyed.

#### **Devil weed (*Chromolaena odorata*)**

*Chromolaena odorata* is known as “devil weed” and for good reason. It is toxic to livestock and humans and a weed of conservation and agricultural concern throughout Africa and the Pacific. Populations of this species are currently known to occur at the Kahuku Training Area (KTA), ‘Ahupua‘a ‘O Kahana State Park, ‘Aiea Loop Trail, Camp Smith, and a multitude of locations between Malaekahana and Pūpūkea on O‘ahu’s north shore. Additionally, individual plants have been detected in Hau‘ula and Mākaha, but no reproducing populations have been discovered during follow-up surveys. A lone plant on the outskirts of Lanikai Beach was also detected several years ago, but subsequent surveys revealed no additional recruitment.

In 2023 OISC continued early-detection surveys across 97.5 acres of Mākaha valley trails over the course of this reporting period during our annual camping operation with a team of seven to survey along trails and around historic point locations for detection and control of devil weed. Field crews detected no devil weed plants from the watershed across 280 hours of staff time although a single individual was detected by partner agency staff from the Wai‘anae Mountains Watershed Partnership along a fenceline that they maintain and reported it to OISC after treatment. Staff from partner agencies who work in this location have opportunistically found individual plants in the area, which has helped to direct OISC’s efforts to focus on trails in addition to historic locations within the valley. Although our surveys have not revealed large patches of devil weed in Mākaha valley, this plant’s ability to hitchhike on clothing and disperse itself has resulted in multiple detections in the area.





In addition to devil weed survey and control operations in Mākaha, OISC conducted annual surveillance and control efforts in Kahana and at KTA. Field teams survey areas known to have recurring historic devil weed populations twice per year. Staff remove flowers and seed heads of any mature plants they encounter and any seedlings too small for adequate field disposal. All vegetative material that cannot be disposed of in the field is hiked out in sealed containers and incinerated at waste facilities to ensure this species is not spreading through the transportation of green waste. Locations with high population densities in these two areas are chemically treated using a truck mounted power-sprayer or precision helicopter spray with low concentrations of non-toxic herbicides. All other plants are hand-pulled and hung securely to dry out roots leading to plant death.

Due to the expansion of devil weed at KTA, OISC shifted strategies to focus on treating hotspots and some trail and road surveyes at this site. OISC power-sprayed known and marked densley populated locations via trailer-mounted power-sprays over fewer camping operations. With less funding going toward this species due to its expanded establishment, OISC crews conducted two camping operations with six staff members. In the future, OISC will direct more effort toward outreach in areas adjacent to KTA while reducing field efforts. The strategy for devil weed in Kahana valley remains the same, and OISC staff will continue to ground survey and aerially treat the historic dense populations at this site. Steady population delcines continue at Kahana valley.

Some devil weed infestations on O'ahu are now too large for OISC to be able to eradicate this species island-wide. Therefore, OISC has partnered with the Army Natural Ressources Program (ANRP), the

Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to test a biocontrol agent for future release. This gall-forming fly, *Cecidochares connexa*, has been released within several other Pacific countries as a means to help control devil weed and has shown promising results. Currently, this biocontrol agent is undergoing host-specificity testing at the Pacific Basic Agricultural Research Center's (PBARC) biocontrol facility in Hilo. OISC continues collecting data on island-wide populations and plans to assist with the release of the biocontrol agent when it becomes available for distribution.

In combatting the spread of this tenacious species, OISC will continue to focus efforts on the edges of the infestation zones and move forward with supporting the biocontrol process. In total across O'ahu, OISC controlled 602 mature plants and 5,481 immature across 295 survey acres in 2023, including 1,548.5 total work hours.

**Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (*Ceratocystis huliohia* and *Ceratocystis lukuohia*):**



**Staff felling an 'ōhi'a tree that tested positive for *C. huliohia***

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) is a forest disease caused by two species of fungal pathogen within the genus *Ceratocystis*. The pathogens have killed 'ōhi'a trees across thousands of acres on Hawai'i Island. So far, only the less virulent of the two species (*C. huliohia*) has been detected on O'ahu. Utilizing high-resolution aerial imagery and data collected during biannual reconnaissance helicopter flights, OISC and its partners collect wildland samples of the most symptomatic and safely accessible trees. Staff also responds to public reports of dead or dying 'ōhi'a, most often on private residential properties. A total of 14 trees since 2019 have tested positive for *C. huliohia*, and of the three positive detections in 2023, all three came from trail surveys within Mākaha valley.

In order to maintain a robust early detection and rapid response effort for ROD, OISC co-leads the O'ahu ROD working group with staff from DOFAW, CGAPS, and ANRP. This working group implements strategies determined at the statewide level and addresses any island-

specific considerations for response. Distributing sampling efforts between multiple partner agencies allows for a more complete effort across multiple land-ownerships to ensure that all safely accessible symptomatic trees are sampled. In 2023, OISC continued facilitating bimonthly meetings and will continue to co-lead this multi-agency partnership.

OISC performed early detection surveys over 122,504 acres of O'ahu's 'ōhi'a forest by ground and air in 2023. Forest health surveys using the United States Forest Service Digital Mobile Sketch Mapping (DMSM) software allowed for one full island-wide survey across 122,491 acres of 'ōhi'a forest throughout the Ko'olau and Wai'anae Ranges. Additionally, staff surveyed 13.1 acres of O'ahu trails and responded to 3 positive *C. huliohia* detections. In coordination with staff from ANRP and DOFAW, OISC



assisted in felling one positive detection in Mākaha but left the other two infected trees standing as felling would've damaged surrounding 'ōhi'a and opened those healthy trees up for infection.

The work on O'ahu is part of a statewide effort that is conducting early detection using the same methodology on all islands and is done in close cooperation with the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership (KMWP), DOFAW, and other partner agencies. In total, OISC collected 20 samples of 'ōhi'a, including 15 samples from 15 public reports of dead or dying trees.



Staff using Digital Mobile Sketch Mapping (DMSM) technology to map single trees and stands of 'ōhi'a forest showing signs of ROD.

### **Cape Ivy (*Delairea odorata*)**

Cape ivy invades dry forests on the Big Island and can smother native plants. The OISC crew has been monitoring and controlling a cape ivy infestation in Pālehua in the Wai'anae Mountains since 2009. Through persistent treatment, the infestation has been drastically reduced from patches that were too numerous to count to only 8 individual immature plants and zero mature plants in 2021. Despite an uptick last year from discovering a previously unknown patch of cape ivy likely resulting from habitat modification from the homeowner, the population appears to be again in decline. In total during 2023, OISC surveyed 44.8 acres at known sites across the 100-acre region, detecting and removing 31 immature plants, down from 192 in the previous year.

OISC also assisted the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in the release of a cape ivy biocontrol agent that has already been approved for release. *Secusio extensa* is a species of moth native to Madagascar and southern Africa, and was released as a biocontrol agent for fireweed (*Senecio*



*madagascariensis*). Fortunately, this agent is also known to control cape ivy, another well-known invasive weed that remains incipient on O‘ahu. This moth substantially reduces the fitness of target species via defoliation, thereby reducing a plant’s ability to photosynthesize.

A table showing the decline in plants is shown below:

Year	Mature	Immature	Acres
2023	0	31	44.8
2022	0	192	53.92
2021	0	8	52.80
2020	0	27	85.65
2019	0	44	79.46
2018	0	150	78.85
2017	1	503	217.59
2016	1	1,365	291.36
2015	6	1,384	126.11

#### **Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus discolor*; syn: *Rubus armeniacus*)**

Himalayan blackberry is a thorny vine that is a serious problem in the Pacific Northwest. OISC staff have been told that it was planted on public land by a resident of Pālolo for fruits and to dissuade trespassers. It has since spread up the valley into the native ‘ōhi‘a forest, threatening the native species there. Himalayan blackberry is difficult to control since it is resistant to available herbicides and re-grows easily from cut stems and roots. Despite these challenges, OISC has drastically reduced Himalayan blackberry numbers. Staggered chemical treatments reduced population numbers enough that OISC now focuses on manual removal for this species. OISC conducted 28.8 acres of ground surveys in 2023 around known accessible sites, detecting no Himalayan blackberry plants.

A table and graph demonstrating the decline in plant numbers for each location is shown below:

Action Year	Mature	Immature	Acres	Total People Hours
2023	0	0	28.87	294
2022	0	1	29.31	250
2021	0	4	32.73	250
2020	0	4	33.11	240
2019	0	7	28.76	184
2018	0	5	29.28	248
2017	0	23	58.23	485

### **Cane Ti: (*Tibouchina herbacea*)**

Cane ti threatens priority native watershed habitat in Poamoho, an area in the northern Koʻolau Range. ANRP staff discovered the highly invasive cane ti (*Tibouchina herbacea*) in the Poamoho region in 2008. This aggressive weed was not known to be naturalized on Oʻahu, but it is widespread on both Hawaiʻi island and Maui where it is beyond the scope of eradication. On these islands, cane ti forms dense thickets that crowd out native plant growth and can proliferate in pockets of intact native forest. In 2023, OISC surveyed 211.5 acres by ground and air, controlling a total of 215 mature and 283 immature plants within the Poamoho region.

Field staff conducted aerial helicopter surveys across 188.3 acres on the windward and leeward sides of the Poamoho summit, adjacent to core populations, in order to delimit outlier populations and inform aerial treatment locations in areas inaccessible by ground. Utilizing the helicopter precision spot spray method, OISC treated 204 mature and 53 immature cane ti individuals within these outlier areas. Both aerial and ground operations are conducted in conjunction with control efforts from the Natural Ecosystems Management & Protection (NEPM) sector of DOFAW, and staff from KMWP.



**Staff inspecting a large cane ti plant while wearing Tyvek suits to prevent contamination.**

### **EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE**

Early-detection and rapid-response (EDRR) is a critical component for the biosecurity of our island and our state. Despite funding shortfalls in 2023, OISC continues to fill a crucial role in EDRR activities for Oʻahu. Mostly through outreach until more funding becomes available, OISC responds to public reports of target and high-priority pests and responds either with direct field intervention or delegation to partner agencies.

### **PORTS OF ENTRY/EXIT SPECIES**

#### **Africanized honey bee (*Apis mellifera scutellata*):**

OISC conducts early detection surveys via trap checks for Africanized bees at Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu and Honolulu Harbor as part of a collaborative statewide effort coordinated by the Ports of Entry/Exit Biosecurity Monitoring Program (formerly, the Māmalu Poepoe

Program). This Ports Biosecurity program is a partnership between the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) established to conduct early detection of high-priority pests at Hawai'i ports of entry and exit. In past years, OISC has facilitated trap checks at the airport but expanded in late 2022 to include areas at Honolulu Harbor.

OISC conducted trap checks for this species once per month during what historically has been the low bee activity season (October – April) and twice per month when bee activity tends to increase (May – September). This strategy resulted in a total of 12 traps checked a total of 20 times at the Daniel K. Inouye Airport and 13 traps checked 19 times at the Honolulu Harbor. OISC staff did not detect any Africanized honeybees in 2023.

### **Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*)**

Coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB) is becoming widespread on O'ahu but initial detections have occurred on Kaua'i, Maui, and Hawai'i Island. A separate CRB response team is taking the lead for the response but OISC assists with tree surveys and trap checks at the ports of entry/exit, Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu, to supplement the island-wide efforts. CRB damage can kill coconut and other palms and is a widespread problem on neighboring Pacific Islands. In 2023, OISC conducted 14 trap checks of 11 unique traps and conducted 1 palm survey to check for beetle damage. One CRB was confirmed in a trap and the palm survey yielded potential damage that will continue to be monitored at regular intervals. OISC also sent outreach and field staff to a training organized by the CRB Response Team to develop detection skills for larvae in mulch piles and identifying CRB damage on palms. Unfortunately, CRB has now become widespread across the island and the statewide strategy is shifting to preventing this species from infiltrating neighbor islands. OISC will continue checking traps in order to help prevent this species from travelling through O'ahu ports and infesting novel locations statewide.



**Staff training with the CRB Response Team to learn CRB larval detection protocols for mulch piles.**

### **Japanese Beetle (*Popillia japonica*)**

Japanese beetle is a high-profile invasive pest that feeds on more than 300 species of host plants, including some turf species. OISC staff checks Japanese beetle traps twice per month during the active season of May through the end of October at both Honolulu Harbor and the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu. In 2023, OISC scouted, identified, and selected trap locations with staff from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC). OISC staff checked 13 traps 12 times at Honolulu Harbor, and 10 traps 12 times at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, detecting no Japanese beetles in 2023.



### Foreign Trade Zone Species

In partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Ports of Entry/Exit Monitoring Program, OISC has expanded surveillance of species not yet detected on Oahu, some not yet detected in the state, to the Hawaii Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ). Located at the entrance of Honolulu Harbor, the FTZ is a secured-access building with very strict rules, including no photographs and no moving of any items within the building while on survey. OISC assisted in identifying appropriate sites for sticky traps and putting up and checking those traps for a variety of high-priority pest species outside of the building with the idea that future operations beyond 2023 may include surveillance within the building as well.

In 2023, OISC selected sites and erected three different types of sticky-traps for detection of five distinct invasive pests: brown marmorated stink bug (*Halyomorpha halys*), Asian longhorned beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*), Queensland longhorned beetle (*Acalolepta aesthetica*), spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*), and spottend lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*). Over the course of 11 trap checks, OISC staff detected none of these species outside the FTZ.

### OTHER EDRR SPECIES

#### Little Fire Ant (LFA) (*Wasmannia auropunctata*)

LFA is a tiny stinging ant that is established on Hawai'i Island and was accidentally introduced to O'ahu in two separate locations. OISC has primarily focused on outreach for this species since 2019, but has increased field assistance to OISC partner agency Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) as infestations have expanded across the island, despite no specific funding for LFA operations. In 2023 OISC assisted in 30 days of surveys and 29 treatment days, an increase of over 328% for surveys and 190% for treatments since 2022. These efforts took place island-wide, mostly along the windward coast where the species continues to spread, but also throughout the urban core and one survey at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport.

Additionally, OISC provided field capacity for two vegetation maintenance days in preparation for survey and treatment while having one treatment day cancelled due to weather. Outreach staff assisted HAL staff regularly with access permission and community response coordination throughout the year. Several OISC staff members also attended an ant species identification workshop hosted by the HAL. The primary responding agency for LFA survey and control is the HAL, and OISC has worked diligently to secure additional funding to assist in the face of increasing LFA populations. In 2024, OISC will have more staff to assist HAL more regularly and increase outreach capacity.



**Attendees practice ant identification in a training hosted by HAL.**



**Staff showcasing LFA testing supplies (peanut butter and chopsticks) at the annual Punahou Carnival Plant Sale.**

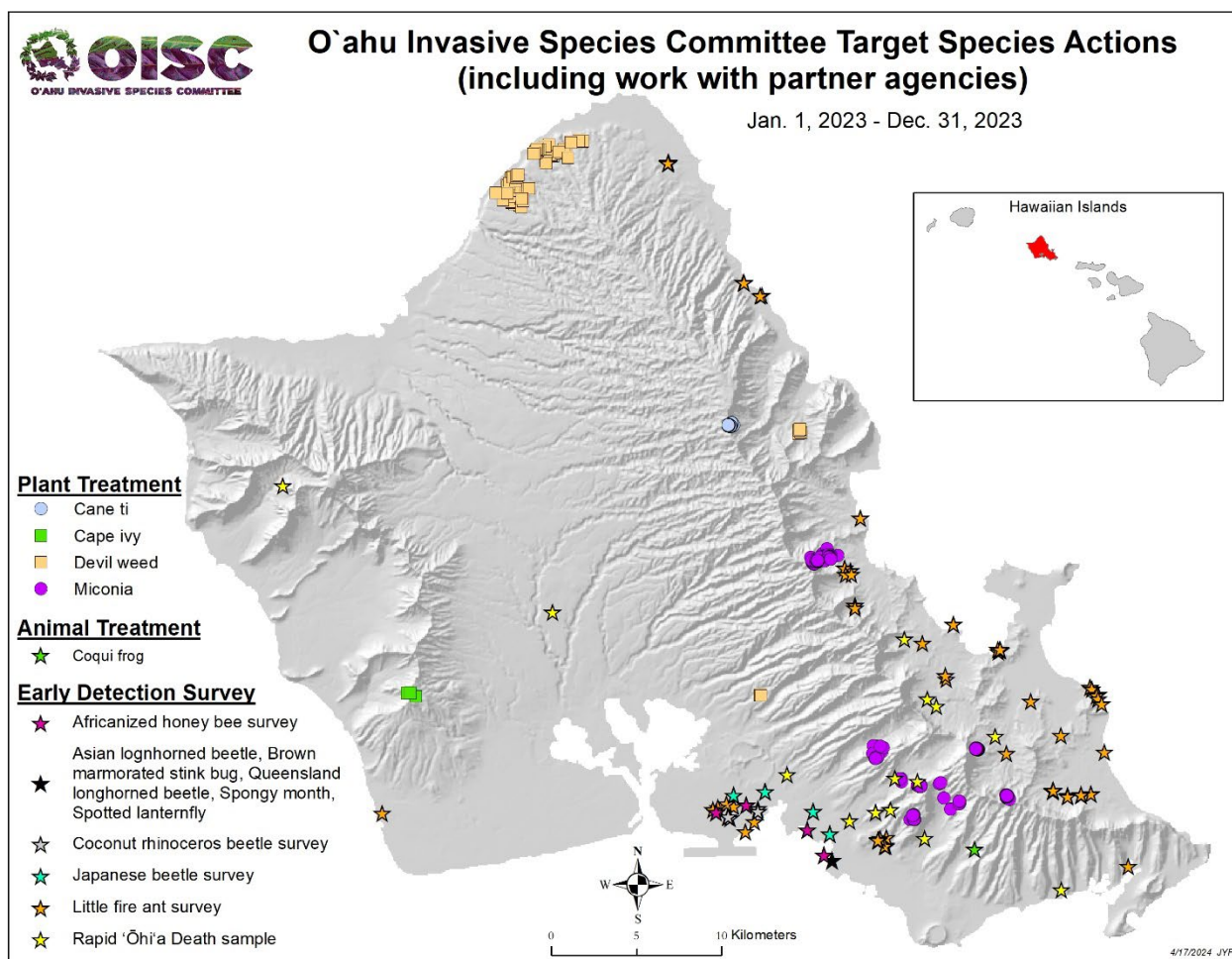
### **Coqui Frog (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*)**

OISC provides support to the HDOA for early detection of coqui frogs by responding to public reports and passing on that information along to appropriate points of contact. Coqui frogs can be stowaways on plants and other items such as vehicles, boats and construction materials from areas on Hawai'i Island with large coqui frog populations. Whenever possible, OISC assists with response to these public reports on O'ahu through coordinated monitoring and subsequent control efforts with HDOA staff.

In 2023, OISC was not awarded funding specific to coqui frog control operations but did assist in the ongoing response led by HDOA, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC). After some helicopter treatments in 2022, OISC consulted with the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) since they have an extensive coqui control program as the strategy for the Waimānalo population shifted back to utilizing a citric pipeline for extensive treatment. Utilizing partner funds for supplies, OISC constructed the initial leg of the citric pipeline but none of the partners could resolve the lack of pressure in propelling the citric acid formulation to the work site. OISC consulted with a retired fluid dynamics engineer to determine the necessary specifications needed to

finish the pipeline, but the project is more complex than originally thought and beyond that engineer's expertise. OISC will continue consulting with engineering experts in order to get the pipeline functioning. OISC staff also assisted with two power-spray operations in Palolo, two site visits to the Waimānalo population to plan the pipeline, and six days in the field constructing the initial leg of the pipeline.





A spatial overview of all OISC field operations taking place across O'ahu.



Hawaii House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

March 12, 2025  
9:00a  
Hawaii State Capitol Conference Room 325

**SUBJECT: Testimony – Comments on SB1100**

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Matthias, and Members the AGR Committee

The Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) is grateful for the opportunity to submit this testimony and provide comments on SB1100 *“Relating to Biosecurity”*. In its essence, SB1100 makes a genuine attempt to enhance Hawai‘i’s biosecurity gaps and much of the bill follows a logical path on how to achieve this goal. However, we have serious concerns surrounding practical execution of this legislation and the movement of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and Biosecurity (HDOAB).

### **Practical Application**

Specific points on agreement:

- Further expansion (beyond current authorities granted in the HRS, and CH 4-72 revisions of the HAR) of departmental authorities at the pre-border, rapid response post border for new species introductions, and enforcement of regulatory authority aimed at preventing inter- and intra-state spread of invasive species, pests, and diseases.
  - o HDOA should be the lead on pre-boarder, and rapid response post boarder for new invasive species, pest, and disease introductions. The HRS and HAR already grants HDOA authorities and regulatory power to achieve these objectives and the recently adopted Chapter 4-72 rule changes has broadened the scope of these authorities.
- Inspection requirement for interisland transport of specific articles mentioned.
  - o The only concern is that the list is limiting and does not fully close the gap. Invasive species are known to “hitchhike” on non-plant and soil items such as fencing and building materials, vehicles and machinery, household items, etc...



Without inspection **We suggest inclusion of language such as “... and any other item originating from an area with known establishment of a priority pest or quarantine pest or disease or when a priority pest or quarantine pest or disease is reasonably suspected to be present.”**

- Enhancement of existing quarantine and cargo inspection through the building of transitional facilities and contracting trained and qualified inspectors from private industry biosecurity firms.
  - o Building of transitional facilities and public-private partnerships will likely increase the biosecurity capacity of the state and set a foundation for comprehensive biosecurity industry in Hawai'i. However, this may or may not be allowable under federal laws regarding restrictions of interstate commerce.

Major point of concern:

- During the 2024 legislative session HDOA was charged with drafting a departmental plan detailing restructuring of HDOA and program functioning for the Departments many programs. Despite numerous public hearings where HDOA was questioned about this plan, HAL is unaware of any plan being drafted or finalized. Without such a plan firmly in place, the restructuring and added responsibilities described in SB100 will be difficult to achieve.
  - o **Suggestion:** Mandate a strategic action plan from HDOA with clear, attainable timelines and benchmarks over the next 5-10 years. HDOA/HDOAB should be held to strict account on meeting the benchmarks and the Legislature should determine Departmental budget increases on the meeting the obligations outlined in the Strategic Action Plan. I would also stringly recommend requiring subject experts to be consulted during the drafting of the Strategic Action Plan as science-based validation of the proposed restructring processes. The Strategic Action Plan should be finalized before implementation of SB1100.

## **Movement of the HISC**

Major points of concern:

- Part III Section 19 creates a Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity within HDOAB, a non-civil service position appointed by the Governor and without Senate confirmation.
  - o As described in SB1100, this position would hold significant power over all invasive species work in HI. Any position holding such extensive power should require Senate confirmation as part of governmental check and balances and to ensure the appointee is properly qualified for the position.
- Pg 22 Part III Section 19: “... the deputy chairperson for biosecurity shall oversee all of the State’s biosecurity initiatives, including programs under chapters 142, 150A, and 194 and sections 141-5, 261-4.5, and 266-21.5.” This section assigns oversight of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HRS Ch 194) to the Deputy Chairperson of Biosecurity and shift departmental attachment of the HISC from DLNR to HDOAB

- Currently the HISC is administratively attached to DLNR with voting members from DLNR, HDOA, DOH, DOT, DBEDT, and UH leadership. Although departmental administration is provided by DLNR, the HISC functions as an autonomous council where no single agency holds disproportional sway on the disbursement of funds.
- Pg 73 Part VII Section 32 provides extensive details on the movement of HISC from DLNR to HDOAB
  - HAL was originally created as a collaboration between HDOA and UH in 2008. Until 2021, HAL received approximately half of our funding from HDOA. However, HAL has received no funding support from the HDOA since 2021 which has led to partial furlough of HAL staff on two occasions and lasting for six months each. During these times, HAL depended more heavily on HISC funding and DLNR supported HAL with essential gap-filling supplemental funds to end the partial furlough.
  - In 2024, ACT 231 awarded HDOA \$1.5M for statewide little fire ant control which island ISC's and HAL were excluded from applying for. HDOA leadership verbally requested proposals from HAL for program support, but these have yet to be reviewed or funded by HDOA despite repeated follow-up by HAL. This demonstrates an unwillingness by HDOA to support partner programs through funding opportunities, which is a major function of the HISC.
  - As a partner organization, HAL testifies that the HISC has gone above and beyond with supporting invasive species related projects (terrestrial and aquatic), seeking federal and state funding opportunities for invasive species projects, and coordinating collaborative control efforts between State and Federal agencies, UH projects, and other partner organizations.
  - In 2024, the HISC led the creation of the Interagency MOU on Priority Pests. Partners from Island ISC's, HAL, and other UH projects and from DLNR and HDOA were tasked developing island and state-wide response plans for CRB, LFA, and Coqui Frog. HDOA has had limited involvement with the drafting of these response plans and their actions toward residential control of LFA without coordination with partner agencies are in contrast to the roles and responsibilities agreed upon under the Interagency MOU. This also demonstrates unwillingness or inability by HDOA to effectively coordinate interagency priority pest response efforts.

At this time, HAL is unable to support SB1100 due to:

- 1) Movement of the HISC to HDOAB from DLNR given HDOA's lack of coordination and transparency with partner agencies and organization
- 2) Appointment of the Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity without Senate Confirmation

- 3) No clear and vetted plan on how HDOA will achieve the expectations outlined in SB1100

HAL is not entirely opposed to SB1100. However, we believe that if this legislation is enacted as written, it will lead to dire consequences for our program and the fight against little fire ants and other priority pests. We are happy to consider alternate drafts where the HISC remains attached to DLNR until a future time and where conditions are detailed to hold HDOA/HDOAB accountable for action.

Regards,  
Dr. Michelle Montgomery PhD  
Manager – Hawaii Ant Lab

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:48:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonnetta Peters	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Jonnetta "Jonee" Kaina Peters, Executive Director for Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH). CCH is also the Hawai'i affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation which has 52 states and territorial affiliates. I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements

to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Jonnetta "Jonee" Kaina Peters*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:07:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Marsh	Native Ecosystem Services	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Taylor Marsh with Native Ecosystem Services and the non-profit Ecosystem Partners in Action, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

**However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.**

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Taylor Marsh



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:08:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Luers	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Luers, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I respectfully understand the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawai‘i agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

CRB is devastating our coconut trees. More ant samples are returning as positive for Little Fire Ants. HISC has been working on all fronts to educate and mitigate. Making a transition like this

right now would be devastating for mitigating invasive species, in particular as DOA has had little engagement so far. Such a transition could set us on a path similar to other Pacific island nations that have lost all their coconut trees and most native species. We have a chance to fight back and a disruption in this process will weaken our defenses.

Additionally there is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Lori Luers

Honolulu 96816

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 3:29:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please adopt all of the Sierra Club's proposed amendments as submitted in testimony; otherwise, please just hold the bill. Mahalo!

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/7/2025 3:39:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**With all due respect, the experts at the Sierra Club have proposed some insightful and valuable amendments that would greatly enhance the merits of this bill. If you prefer not to incorporate all of their proposed amendments into the bill; then please do not move the bill forward. Please simply hold it for now.**

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:03:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lu Ann Mahiki Lankford-Faborito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support helping farmers in biosecurity issues

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 5:12:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee members,

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever-present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species. Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Marcia Kemble  
Makiki

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 12:30:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee, as a botanist actively working with and researching invasive plants in Hawai'i, I am in strong support of increased regulation to strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity. Invasive species such as LFA, Miconia, CRB, etc are an existential threat to our islands, both agriculturally and ecologically. However, this bill, as currently drafted, makes changes I cannot support. **I support this bill with amendments.**

Principally, I am concerned by section 36 & 37 which moves the Hawai'i invasive species council (HISC) the control of the department of agriculture and biosecurity (DOAB). While I understand the appeal of concentrating biosecurity operations to one department, I am quite skeptical of the ability of the DOAB to manage invasive species at a landscape scale. For example, last legislative session HDOA was allocated \$10M to manage little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetles. As of the writing of this, they have not yet spent a single penny and as such the situation with these pests is deteriorating.

The current administration of HDOA, and thus the future administration of DOAB do not seem to possess the skills or ability to manage invasive species at a large scale. This is contrary to HISC which has shown itself to be very effective at managing and eradicating invasive species. Relationships between HISC and HDOA administration are hardly amicable. Going back to the \$10M for invasive species control mentioned previously, despite promises to the contrary, applications for these funds were not made available to HISC but instead went to private companies despite HISC being the most capable organization to do the work. I do not believe that requiring HISC to report to the DOAB would be a positive to biosecurity in Hawai'i. **I strongly suggest ammendments removing section 36, 37, or any other language which would give DOAB any control over HISC.** If, in the future, DOAB has shown competency in management of invasive species at a landscape scale, and engaged in productive collaboration with HISC, I would support relocating HISC.

I support that this bill has the chairperson of biosecurity appointed by the governor and the remainder of the bill, minus the points raised above.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this bill.

Kevin Faccenda, PhD

Honolulu, HI

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/9/2025 5:49:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1100 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:57:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a long, complicated, & detailed bill, and I do not have the expertise to pass judgement on all its provisions, but I would like to note my support for the very important goal of preserving Hawaii's biosecurity, and the urgency of acting to slow the rate of introduction of invasive pests to our islands.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:26:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of SB1100 SD2 with Concerns Regarding Section 36**

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on SB1100 SD2. I strongly support its efforts to strengthen Hawai‘i’s biosecurity by renaming the Department of Agriculture, establishing a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity, and implementing critical measures to combat invasive species. Key provisions, including transitional facilities, licensed inspectors, increased penalties, and emergency response teams, are vital to protecting our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy.

However, I have concerns about Section 36, which transfers the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the newly renamed Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. HISC has been effective as an independent coordinator among state agencies, private entities, and federal partners. Moving it under the Department of Agriculture risks diminishing its ability to facilitate cross-sector collaboration, which is essential for comprehensive invasive species management.

I urge the committee to **amend Section 36 to keep HISC under DLNR** while strengthening its partnership with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. Preserving its autonomy will ensure continued coordination across agencies without disrupting its proven effectiveness.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:56:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Best	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo, Barbara Best, Wailuku

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:09:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within the DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.**

**Further I urge you to consider admendments that the dept and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward.**

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:21:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Koster	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture’s current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure’s effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:38:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Frohlich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:43:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

**Comments:**

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

I am Dr. Benton Keali'i Pang, a conservationist with over 25 years of experience addressing invasive species issues in Hawai'i. I am submitting strong opposition to SB 1100, SD2, particularly the provision that transfers the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the newly proposed Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

While the bill's intent to enhance biosecurity is commendable, moving HISC under DAB's jurisdiction will diminish its effectiveness, limit interagency collaboration, and disrupt existing invasive species management efforts.

**Key Concerns:**

- 1. Weakening of Interagency Coordination**  
HISC was designed to coordinate efforts across state, federal, and county agencies to tackle invasive species threats. The Council facilitates rapid response and collaborative management, which is essential in preventing and controlling new invasions. Shifting HISC into the Department of Agriculture risks siloing invasive species response efforts, weakening the ability to engage with DLNR, the Department of Health, UH researchers, and community partners.
- 2. Increased Bureaucratic Barriers & Delayed Response**  
The Department of Agriculture already has a heavy workload and has historically faced delays in executing critical biosecurity measures. Even after receiving historic funding levels last year, much of that funding remains unspent. HISC, on the other hand, has demonstrated effective and timely deployment of resources to combat invasive species across Hawai'i. Transferring HISC to an untested department structure introduces risk of inefficiency and bureaucratic slowdowns in responding to invasive species threats.
- 3. Funding and Program Disruptions**  
HISC and its affiliated county-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) operate on limited yet highly effective budgets, preventing millions of dollars in potential damages through proactive control efforts. Restructuring could cause funding uncertainty, leading to gaps in critical programs such as the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death response, Little Fire Ant containment, and coconut rhinoceros beetle control.

4. Lack of Accountability & Oversight for the Deputy of Biosecurity

The bill proposes a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity but lacks clear oversight mechanisms to ensure accountability. The Legislature should consider requiring:

- Regular reporting to the Board of Agriculture and public stakeholders
- Clear benchmarks and deadlines for invasive species action plans
- Confirmation hearings for the new deputy position to ensure transparency and qualifications

**Recommendation:**

Rather than moving HISC under DAB, the Legislature should instead:

- Strengthen existing biosecurity efforts within DLNR, DOA, and HISC's current multi-agency structure
- Ensure greater coordination between agencies without dismantling HISC's effectiveness
- Implement more transparent oversight and accountability for biosecurity leadership

Hawai'i cannot afford to take a step backward in invasive species prevention. HISC has been a national model for interagency collaboration, and any restructuring must enhance, not dismantle, its effectiveness. I urge the committee to oppose SB 1100, SD2 as written and pursue alternative approaches that build upon our existing progress.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Benton Keali'i Pang, Ph.D.  
Conservationist, Hawai'i

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:43:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Kocher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Leah Kocher and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Leah Kocher

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 4:53:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Reese Liggett	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is William Reese Liggett and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

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Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
William Reese Liggett]

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:05:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jen ballou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Jen Ballou, and I'm reaching out today to share my **comments and concerns** regarding SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions that highlight the importance of the Department of Agriculture—soon to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity—taking on a more defined role in our broader biosecurity strategy. However, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposal to place the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other biosecurity programs that currently fall outside of the department's existing scope.**

While I recognize the intent behind this measure to encourage the Department of Agriculture to take responsibility for its long-overlooked biosecurity role, I have **SERIOUS CONCERNS** about moving HISC and other external programs under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB). Additionally, there is a lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity, which is deeply concerning.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) are vital in preventing invasive pests from causing irreversible harm to our environment, food systems, and communities. Through coordination across agencies, HISC leads research, planning, community engagement, and direct action to mitigate the ongoing threat of invasive species. Despite being underfunded, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding swiftly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and partnering with community groups to safeguard our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Placing HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a **major misstep** with potentially **devastating consequences**. The Department of Agriculture has long struggled to fulfill its current obligations, and even after receiving historic funding levels last year, much of that money remains unspent. Handing control of these well-established and effective invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could **set back** our fight against invasive species by years.

Furthermore, I urge you to consider **amendments** that would ensure greater accountability for both the department and the deputy of biosecurity. These could include regular reporting to the Board of Agriculture and the public, clear deadlines for invasive species action plans with measurable benchmarks, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jen Ballou

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:13:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
afsheen siddiqi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Afsheen

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:20:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Jessica dos Santos, and I am writing today to offer the following comments and concerns regarding SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions that emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace its particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever-present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable for their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica dos Santos

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:46:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Reeser	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Cheryl Reeser and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Cheryl Reeser



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 5:59:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Andrew and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:18:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

GOOD IDEA AND MUCH NEEDED. MAHALO!

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:21:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Ravarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Patricia Ravarra and I am writing today to present the following concerns I have regarding on SB1100 SD2. I won't take up a lot of your time with the specific information and documentation that others are providing. I simply want to urge you, at this crucial time in our environmental history, to avoid attempting to reinvent the wheel. There are already well-organized and well-functioning organizations working to stop invasive pests from their onslaught on our environment, food systems, and communities. These groups have already been success at what they do. Why do you need to try to change that? If you have to do something, increase their funding so that these experienced and knowledge folk can CONTINUE AS THEY HAVE BEEN DOING.

Please. Stop playing politics with our environment. Here on the neighbor islands, we're on the front line and our folks are doing the work. Please let well enough alone, and leave the good people on the ground alone to do their good work. Do not move the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB). Please. For all of our sakes.

Mahalo for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Patricia Ravarra  
Honoka'a, HI

My name is [Your name] and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:31:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl C. Christensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Carl C. Christensen and I am writing to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2 and to OPPOSE its passage in its current form. I am a malacologist (specialist in mollusks) with a particular interest in the native and introduced nonmarine snails and slugs of the Hawaiian Islands. In the course of my research, I have published articles reporting the recent arrival in Hawaii of several invasive land snails and slugs and on the introduction of such species into other Pacific Island groups. I am frequently asked to serve as a peer reviewer of manuscripts on the subject of invasive species submitted for potential publication in various scientific journals.

I appreciate the intent of this legislation to increase the priority the Hawaii Department of Agriculture gives to the protection of Hawaii against invasive species. I STRONGLY OPPOSE, however, the intent of this bill to place the State's formal biosecurity program in HDOA rather than in the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

HDOA's main mandate is to advance the interests of the State's agriculture industry. To the extent that requires the agency to protect us against agricultural pests, all well and good. HDOA is subject to two important conflicts of interest in accomplishing that task, however.

First of all, measures necessary to protect us against invasive species that could impose costs on local agriculture are likely to be opposed by influential interests HDOA sees it as important to protect. The horticulture industry, for example, has been shown to be a critical source of new introductions, yet such interests have historically opposed measures such as public identification of infested nurseries and careful (and, to them, bothersome) inspections of interstate and intrastate shipments of horticultural products. In its feeble regulation of chemical pesticides HDOA has shown a willingness to place the narrow interests of the industry over the broader public interest; the infamous Heptachlor disaster is only the most notorious example of this.

Second, HDOA's concentration on *agricultural* pests is likely to shortchange effort to control pests that are injurious to Hawaii's native plants and animals but that have little actual *economic* impact. The most egregious example of this is the Sare's notorious effort to control the Giant African Snail through the introduction of supposedly "beneficial" biological control agents such as the predatory snail *Euglandina rosea* over the timely objections of knowledgeable malacologists who predicted, accurately, that this introduction would have devastating impacts



on Hawaii's unique native land snails, including those of the federally endangered genus *Achatinella*. The introduction of *Euglandina* to Hawaii and other Pacific Islands is now recognized as the best (or worst) example in the world of a biological control program gone horribly wrong because of a failure to consider predictable (and predicted) impacts on non-target species.

Instead of HDOA, the new Deputy of Biosecurity should be placed in the Department of Land and Natural Resources. DLNR has a mandate to protect native species as well as nonnatives, and would bring a broader perspective to the invasive species problem that would HDOA with its narrow focus on the agricultural sector. Furthermore, while DLNR is of course subject to political pressures like any other regulatory agency, it does not have a history of being under the thumb of an agriculture industry it is tasked with regulating. Similarly, placing the Invasive Species Committees under DLNR, rather than HDOA, would ensure that the membership of these committees adequately reflects Hawaii's interests in protecting our native wildlife. HDOA should certainly have input into the makeup of these committees, but it should not have primary responsibility for selecting their membership

For the same reasons, I oppose adding "Biosecurity" to HDOA's title as this would imply, incorrectly, that HDOA was the agency with SOLE, or even PRIMARY, responsibility for invasive species control.

The Legislature, and this Committee, are to be congratulated in recognizing and acting to respond to the important threat invasive species pose to Hawaii. I ask only that its current efforts be redirected in a manner that would, in my opinion, better protect us from the full range of such threats.

Carl C. Christensen, Ph.D.

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 6:48:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Welch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is [Your name] and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever-present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully,*

Kimberly Welch

Mililani Resident

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 7:00:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Najarian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brandon Najarian, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident and career conservationist writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical

positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Brandon Najarian

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:01:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Molly Mamaril and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

**However, I oppose moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.**

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical

positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Molly Mamaril



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:21:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucas Morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Lucas Morgan and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Mahalo nui,*

*Lucas Morgan, PhD*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:21:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucas Morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Lucas Morgan and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Mahalo nui,*

*Lucas Morgan, PhD*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:28:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Frohlich	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kush and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB1100, which proposes renaming the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and significantly restructuring its responsibilities. While I support the critical need for robust biosecurity measures to protect Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and agriculture, this measure raises significant concerns about the effectiveness of implementation, accountability, and resource allocation.

HDOA has a poor track record when it comes to effectively managing invasive species and enforcing existing regulations. For example, HDOA has struggled to adequately allocate resources to priority areas despite receiving funding for biosecurity programs in the past. Funds are often underutilized or directed away from pressing invasive species issues. HDOA has also failed to crack down on businesses responsible for transporting invasive species, such as the Little Fire Ant (LFA), interisland. Infested plants continue to be sold to unsuspecting customers, contributing to the spread of these harmful pests. Additionally, the department has consistently faced challenges in hiring and retaining skilled biosecurity professionals. Adding responsibilities without addressing staffing inefficiencies will exacerbate these issues and reduce program effectiveness.

Instead of giving additional resources to HDOA, which has demonstrated systemic shortcomings, funds should be directed to organizations with proven success in invasive species management. The Hawai‘i Ant Lab and the Invasive Species Committees, for instance, have accomplished significant progress in invasive species detection, management, and eradication despite operating with far fewer resources. These entities are better equipped and more results-driven, making them a more effective investment.

SB1100 proposes transferring the Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity staff to the newly restructured Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. This move is problematic for several reasons. Staff currently working under organizations like the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) or the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) bring specialized knowledge and field experience. Assimilating them into the HDOA risks diluting their effectiveness by embedding them in a bureaucratic structure that prioritizes agricultural productivity over ecosystem health. Agencies like the ISCs operate with a collaborative, cross-agency approach that has been instrumental in responding quickly to invasive species threats. Folding these efforts into HDOA risks limiting their ability to operate independently and nimbly,

potentially slowing response times and reducing the impact of their work. HDOA has historically focused on agriculture, not biosecurity. Expanding their mandate without ensuring a cultural and operational shift could mean that biosecurity becomes a secondary priority rather than an integrated focus.

The creation of new roles, such as a Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity, and additional programs may lead to unnecessary duplication of efforts rather than building on existing frameworks. For example, the Hawai'i Ant Lab and ISCs already manage detection and rapid response for many invasive species. Adding another layer of administration could create inefficiencies and confusion over roles and responsibilities. Civil Beat and other sources have highlighted similar concerns, noting that past restructuring efforts often resulted in overlaps that hindered effective action against invasive species.

The proposed appropriation of funds under SB1100 would be better spent bolstering existing programs and partnerships with proven track records. For example, increasing funding for the Hawai'i Ant Lab would allow them to expand their efforts to control LFAs and other harmful ant species. Supporting the ISCs would enhance community-based invasive species management programs, which are more flexible and responsive than centralized bureaucratic approaches. Improving interagency collaboration and streamlining existing efforts would ensure resources are used effectively and efficiently. There is a greater need for clear lines of communication and collaboration among existing agencies, rather than layering new structures on top of ineffective systems.

While biosecurity is a critical issue for Hawai'i, SB1100's approach is flawed. HDOA's history of mismanagement and inefficiency, combined with the risks of assimilating effective programs into a centralized bureaucracy, make this measure an unsuitable solution. I urge the committee to reconsider SB1100 and focus on strengthening and funding existing programs and partnerships that have demonstrated success in protecting Hawai'i from invasive species. By investing in proven entities like the Hawai'i Ant Lab and the ISCs, we can ensure that biosecurity efforts are both effective and accountable.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Chris Frohlich

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 8:46:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Quintana	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Heather Quintana



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:05:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Otsuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100 SD2, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

**However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.**

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawai‘i agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical

positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100 SD2.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:46:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Bo Breda and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 9:47:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Peter Wilson and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:12:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harvey Arkin	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Harvey Arkin and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Harvey Arkin

Manoa



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:21:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Nanea Lo**, and I am writing today to offer **COMMENTS AND CONCERNS** on **SB1100 SD2**. While I appreciate the intent of this measure — to expand the Department of Agriculture’s role in biosecurity by renaming it the **Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity** — I must express my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to placing the Department of Agriculture and the new Deputy of Biosecurity in charge of the **Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC)** and other biosecurity programs currently outside the Department’s jurisdiction.

I recognize the importance of encouraging the Department of Agriculture to embrace its crucial role in biosecurity, which has been historically overlooked. However, I have serious concerns about transferring control of HISC and county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) under the proposed Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB). These teams have long been effective in protecting our islands by coordinating multi-agency efforts to research, plan, engage the community, and respond rapidly to invasive threats.

Despite limited funding, HISC and the ISCs have successfully prevented significant environmental and economic damage by swiftly addressing outbreaks and collaborating with local groups to safeguard Hawai‘i’s forests, watersheds, and communities. Moving these vital programs under DAB risks compromising their proven effectiveness, especially given the Department of Agriculture’s ongoing struggles to manage its existing duties. Even with unprecedented funding allocations last year, much of that funding remains unutilized. Shifting these successful programs to an untested structure within DAB could undermine years of progress in combating invasive species.

Additionally, I urge you to consider amendments that introduce **strong accountability measures** for the proposed Deputy of Biosecurity. These should include:

- **Regular reporting requirements** to the Board of Agriculture and the public.
- **Deadlines for invasive species action plans** with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes.
- **Initial and biannual confirmation hearings** for the appointed Deputy of Biosecurity to ensure ongoing accountability.

By strengthening oversight and maintaining the independence of HISC and ISCs, we can better protect Hawai‘i’s precious ecosystems, food systems, and communities.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

**Nanea Lo**

Mō‘ili‘ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai‘i Executive Committee Member

Board Member, Hawai‘i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:24:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Little fire ants showed up last year at the Punahou Carnival. What more should I have to say? We need to have an agency that takes invasive species seriously and actually acts.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 10:43:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Magnacca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am an entomologist with 30 years experience dealing with invasive species, including documenting many new records of introduced insects. I am writing to oppose SB1100 in its current form. While I agree with the broad goals including the stronger biosecurity measures outlined, I strongly oppose sections VII and IX, moving the Invasive Species Councils under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture rather than Land & Natural Resources.

HDOA is currently woefully understaffed even for its current mission. The bill proposes a substantial overhaul of the department that will require not only hiring many new people, but a change in its culture. Those goals can hopefully be accomplished, but in the meantime the work of the ISCs is urgent and must continue unimpeded. At present, that is best accomplished under DLNR, which is focused on conservation, recreation, and other non-agricultural lands where most invasive species control takes place. Moving the ISCs under HDOA will do nothing to make their work better, but will separate them from the managers they need to coordinate with in DLNR. For these reasons, I urge you to amend or reject this bill.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:15:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Solomon Champion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Solomon Champion, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical

positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Solomon Champion

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 2:22:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kuo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Julie Kuo and I am a concerned Oahu resident writing to provide comments regarding SB1100, "Relating to Biosecurity."

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity in Hawaii is crucial for protecting the State's natural and cultural resources from the continued threat of aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial for managing priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I am particularly concerned for the ramifications of shifting the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) purview from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the DOA for these reasons:

- Interruptions in HISC funding could debilitate the State's prevention and control efforts for managing new and established invasive species.
- The bill lacks clarity on prioritizing aquatic biosecurity and HISC funding for managing pathways of aquatic invasive species introductions (e.g., aquarium pet release/trade, marine debris, ballast water, vessel biofouling, etc.) as well as for controlling established populations and their spread in marine and freshwater environments.
- Furthermore, the bill is unclear in its intent to sustain critical HISC funding for Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other vital programs and projects that support the State's biosecurity initiatives.

Collaborative engagement with biosecurity experts from DLNR Aquatics and Forestry Divisions, ISCs, DOA, State Department of Transportation, and State Department of Health is highly recommended for troubleshooting key concerns in the bill that impact their agency and/or important biosecurity initiative. Proactive discussions are essential for optimizing the successful implementation of large-scale initiatives like SB1100 and advancing the shared goal of enhancing the State's biosecurity capabilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Sincerely,

Julie Kuo



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:45:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Jodi Rodar, I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jodi Rodar

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 4:35:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqui skill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Jacqui Skill and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Jacqui SKill

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:08:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Luers	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Luers, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I respectfully understand the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawai‘i agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

CRB is devastating our coconut trees. More ant samples are returning as positive for Little Fire Ants. HISC has been working on all fronts to educate and mitigate. Making a transition like this

right now would be devastating for mitigating invasive species, in particular as DOA has had little engagement so far. Such a transition could set us on a path similar to other Pacific island nations that have lost all their coconut trees and most native species. We have a chance to fight back and a disruption in this process will weaken our defenses.

Additionally there is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Lori Luers

Honolulu 96816

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:22:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Barbara Barry and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 5:37:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Nancy Harter and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Harter, Lahaina, HI

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:07:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Whitenack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Mariko Whitenack and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Me ke aloha,  
Mariko Whitenack

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:12:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justine Haltom	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is [Your name] and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Justine Haltom

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mele Ana Kastner, and I am a concerned O'ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, "Relating to Biosecurity."

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

**However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.**

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people's backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is

not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Mele Ana Kastner



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:17:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Keala Fung from Honolulu and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Keala Fung

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:22:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Dept of Ag hasn't been doing their job, and now you want to give them more responsibility? I don't know enough on how to stop LFA and CRB from invading our land further, but you have got to do something that everyone agrees on with ACCOUNTABILITY.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:23:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwen Sinclair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

My name is Gwen Sinclair and I am writing today **in opposition to** SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

Combating invasive species is an issue that extends far beyond the concerns of agriculture. For example, imagine that a biting sand fly invades our state, driving tourists away from beaches. It could potentially devastate our economy, but it has nothing to do with agriculture. Therefore, while I appreciate the intent of this bill, I am concerned that fighting invasive species would become a lower priority if this function is buried deep in the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Therefore, I ask you not to pass this bill in its current form. Please do not move invasive species under the HDOA.

Gwen Sinclair

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:29:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Chapin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Robin Chapin and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Robin Chapin*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:40:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaua Kama	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is E. Kauaililinoe Kama, and I'm submitting testimony to share my COMMENTS AND CONCERNS regarding SB1100. As someone who cares deeply about the health of our environment and the communities that rely on it, I appreciate the intent of this bill and support the effort to have the Department of Agriculture—soon to be the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity—take a stronger role in our state's biosecurity strategy.

However, I must STRONGLY OPPOSE the proposal to place the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external biosecurity programs under the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB).

While I recognize the importance of holding the Department more accountable to its biosecurity responsibilities, I have significant concerns about this structural shift. HISC and the county-based Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) already serve as a vital first line of defense against invasive pests. They operate across agencies, engage communities, and act quickly to protect our forests, food systems, watersheds, and neighborhoods. Despite operating with limited resources, their work has prevented countless ecological and economic damages.

As someone who values the effectiveness of coordinated, cross-agency efforts and community involvement, I worry that moving these programs under a single department—especially one that has struggled to carry out its current mandates—could be a step backward. Even with historic funding increases, the Department has had difficulty deploying resources efficiently. Placing HISC and ISCs within an untested DAB structure may undermine the very programs that are working.

I also believe we need stronger mechanisms to ensure accountability for the new deputy of biosecurity. I urge you to consider amendments that require public and Board of Agriculture reporting, clear deadlines and benchmarks for invasive species action plans, and confirmation hearings at both appointment and regular intervals thereafter.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my thoughts. I hope you'll consider these concerns seriously as you deliberate on this bill.

Mahalo nui,  
E. Kaulilinoe Kama



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:49:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Samuel Lee and I am writing today to offer the following comments and concerns on SB1100. While I appreciate the desire to rename the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) and embrace the need for biosecurity strategy in our unique environment, I strongly oppose the restructured Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) and the new deputy of biosecurity being placed in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other biosecurity programs not currently under the Department of Agriculture's purview. I acknowledge the intentions and appreciate this measure's efforts to put the Department of Agriculture to work on its long-neglected role of biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the HISC and other external programs and projects under the rebranded DAB. I also have concerns about the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity. Despite limited funding, HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) have played a critical role in stopping invasive pests from irreversibly harming our environment, food systems, and communities. HDOA received historic levels of funding last year, yet much of that money remains unspent and it has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities. I am concerned that moving HISC and the ISCS under the newly founded DAB and its appointed deputy of biosecurity without having the proper regulatory and accountability measures in place will send us backwards in the ongoing fight against invasive species. I urge you to consider amending the measure to better ensure that the department and deputy are held accountable with any newly established responsibilities: regular reporting requirements; deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes; and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo nui,  
Samuel

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 7:53:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Breanne Fong, and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable for their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Breanne Fong

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:01:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Tamaarkiki	HISC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I recognize and appreciate the effort of Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of

funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species. Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity. Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,  
Jennifer Tamaariki*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:08:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Luers	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lori Luers, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I respectfully understand the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE moving the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) from its current position from being administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to being administered under DOA.

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes it possible for projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded projects that act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawai‘i agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.
- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

CRB is devastating our coconut trees. More ant samples are returning as positive for Little Fire Ants. HISC has been working on all fronts to educate and mitigate. Making a transition like this

right now would be devastating for mitigating invasive species, in particular as DOA has had little engagement so far. Such a transition could set us on a path similar to other Pacific island nations that have lost all their coconut trees and most native species. We have a chance to fight back and a disruption in this process will weaken our defenses.

Additionally there is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Lori Luers

Honolulu 96816

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:42:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Beachy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kush, and Members of the Committee,

I am a concerned O‘ahu resident and kama‘aina writing to provide comments about SB1100, “Relating to Biosecurity.”

I appreciate the overall intent of this measure. Prioritizing biosecurity will be crucial to protecting our islands from the increasing threats posed by invasive species. Increasing the Department of Agriculture’s (DOA) focus on biosecurity will be crucial to the successful management of priority pests like little fire ant, coqui frog, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and other high-impact species.

**However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the DOA and new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other biosecurity programs outside DOA’s current purview. HISC should continue to be administered under the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR).**

This concerns me because:

- HISC makes possible critical projects like the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) and other HISC-funded initiatives; these projects act as the second layer of defense in protecting our State from invasive species that infiltrate our borders by working in people’s backyards and preventing these priority pests from establishing in our watersheds.
- While biosecurity is important for protecting agriculture from invasive species, the importance of biosecurity extends well beyond the Hawaii agricultural industry, and successful management will be crucial to protecting many other industries statewide (like watershed health, tourism, human health, transportation, marine resources, etc.).
- Biosecurity is also critical to the health and preservation of native ecosystems, the services they provide, and the culture they support.
- The HISC and the DLNR have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- Any interruptions in HISC funding and function could lead to irreparable damage from current high-priority invasive species responses.



- Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too big for any one department. Coordinating resources and responsibilities across multiple Departments is a more successful approach, just like the approach of the New Zealand government.

There is a lack of clarity regarding how HISC would be facilitated under DOA. Given how well HISC is administered under DLNR and the difficulties that DOA faces in filling critical positions, spending allocated funds, and controlling existing priority pest populations, it is not appropriate to disrupt HISC operations at this time. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Jane Reppun Beachy

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Penniman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

I am Jay Penniman, I live in Kahakaloa, on the north shore of Maui. I am writing today to oppose SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Mahalo for considering my perspective,

Jay F. Penniman

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:49:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Beth Anderson and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture’s current purview.**

I oppose the measure because I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB),

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Beth Anderson



**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:46:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Ward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Deborah Ward and I am farming on the east side of Hawai'i island. I have been battling invasive species since I began farming, and it always seems that a new devastating challenge hits me every year. (Erythrina Gall wasp, fire ants, stinging nettle caterpillars, banana bunchytop virus, Queensland Longhorn beetle, feral pigs, new weeds, and so much more!)

I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Deborah Ward, Laiku Farm, Kurtistown

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:58:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Shay Chan Hodges and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan around, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the



appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shay Chan Hodges

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:59:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Cullison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I oppose this bill as written and offer the following comments:

The DoA chair should not be allowed to appoint their own deputies, this would give the appearance of cronyism and usurps the current authorities of the Governor. (Pg 30)

The DoA does not need to independently declare a bio-emergency, that usurps the current authorities of the Governor. (Pg 36)

These provisions will further reduce the public's confidence in DoA's commitment to protect the public from unwanted introduction and spread of invasive species:

DoA should not contract private companies to inspect imported goods (Pg 41), this should be a government function to avoid excessive costs and possible conflicts of interest.

DoA should not make agreements with private nurseries to self-inspect (Pg 70). Recent instances of industry knowingly selling/distributing infested product, and DoA openly stonewalling the public interest by refusing to identify the "bad actors", has resulted in considerable skepticism that the industry deserves the right to police itself.

Allowing industry-connected appointees to determine the merit and funding for pest management projects (Pg 72) will reduce the already inadequate support for responding to invasive species introductions and controlling spread throughout the state.

Finally, as noted above, neither the industry or DoA has proven to act in the best interest of the public. Instead of taking aggressive action to immediately lock down vectors of invasive species spread, DoA has a history of delaying or weakening proposed solutions, repeatedly citing that those corrective actions would be detrimental to the profits of industry partners.

I do not necessarily fault DoA for this, after all their main mission is "to support, enhance, promote, and protect Hawai'i's agriculture and aquaculture industries". It is completely unreasonable to expect an agency with industry-connected decision-making staff to both promote and regulate that same industry. However, it is well known that DoA's lack of effective action has led to the recent proliferation and spread of both little fire and coconut rhinoceros beetle. We, the citizens of this state, cannot afford to place misguided faith in DoA until DoA demonstrates, through effective invasive species management, that such faith is not misguided.

This was one of the known challenges that led to the formation of The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). HISC is a multi-agency coordinating council with a goal to serve the public interest by preventing, controlling, and eradicating invasive species throughout the state.

DoA, with an obvious conflict of interest, should NOT be allowed to absorb (Pg 74), and therefore stifle, the collaborative Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

After his recent trip to New Zealand to learn how that country's strict controls help protect it from invasive species impacts, Sen Deal Cruz noted that successful management involves all departments fostering better collaboration "within state government to create a seamless biosecurity shield for Hawaii". New Zealand relies on Department of Conservation, not agriculture to oversee invasive species management.

This bill give the appearance of a power grab by the DoA, and should not be approved. If DoA continues to permit the industry to knowingly expose the state to invasive species impacts, the long term cost to the citizenry is simply too high.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 8:59:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Hopkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kylie Hopkins and I am writing today to offer the following comments and concerns on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. However, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kylie Hopkins

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:16:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

*My name is Samantha Nelson and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.*

*While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.*

*HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.*

*Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money*

*remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.*

*Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.*

*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Samantha Nelson*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 9:22:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. However, I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.*

*Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.*

*While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.*

*HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.*

*Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.*



*Thank you for your consideration.*

*Sincerely,*

*Kristen Kane*

*Committee on Agriculture and Environment*

*March 11, 2025*

*Subject: SB1100 - Relating to Biosecurity*

Dear Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee,

I am Melissa Chimera, a Landcare Program Specialist working with Dr. Clay Trauernicht, the UH wildfire scientist on land stewardship as it relates to wildfire planning and mitigation. As I'm sure you are aware, unmanaged fuels—specifically introduced grasses are a human health and ecological concern as it relates to native ecosystem protection and wildfire risk reduction. Preventing the introduction and spread of additional plant and animal pests is a career-long concern of mine, having worked in ecological protection and education for thirty years—for the Hawaii Army National Guard, the Nature Conservancy and Haleakala National Park.

I am writing to provide comments on Senate Bill 1100 (SB1100). While biosecurity is an important issue, this bill raises several concerns that I believe need to be addressed before it moves forward.

Firstly, I do support the bill's provisions to introduce new mandates for the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors for imported plants and animals. Having designated spaces to manage and contain potential threats before they spread will provide a crucial buffer and safeguard against potential invasions. This will ensure that those responsible for inspecting goods are well-equipped and knowledgeable, reducing the risk of harmful species entering our state.

I also support the increase in penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms and for the Department to enter into government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawaii. I have long wanted to see the Department implement pest management plans to help address specific threats that may require immediate attention, containment, or eradication efforts.

However, I have concerns regarding the proposed transfer of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the Department of Agriculture. DLNR is the largest public land steward and has the infrastructure and personnel support already in place (via the island branch offices, managers and staff) to help support the island Invasive Species Committees and their day-to-day activities. Moving the HISC out of an effective strategy that has worked for decades would effectively be re-creating an infrastructure from ground zero. Instead, bolstering the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity mandates, funding and efforts within the existing framework will foster more effective collaboration in responding to invasive species issues across all departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Melissa Chimera', with a stylized, flowing script.

Melissa Chimera  
Landcare Program Specialist  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management  
808-280-2669

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:28:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Herring	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Eileen Herring and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Eileen Herring

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:29:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Stoker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Heather Stoker and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Heather Stoker

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:56:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Diane Ware and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear



benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Diane Ware Ka'u Moku 96785*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:58:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernard Sadoulet	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*loha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Bernard Sadoulet and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, given the current administrative issues faced by the Department, it seems PREMATURE to place Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview under the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity .**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB could be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Therefore, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action

plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity. When the new Department is properly reorganized and has demonstrated increased administrative efficiency, it would make indeed sense to move Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

Bernard Sadoulet  
Kohala Ranch resident and Firewise coordinator, Big Island

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 10:59:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia moritz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Julia I am a paramedic on oahu and and I support this bill! Put endemic species are on the brink of extinction without management of invasive species. I have first hand seen the destruction in just the last year of coconut rhinoceros beetles on the east side of oahu, it is predicted we will no longer have palms as soon as the next 5 years. Also our aina needs the most protection and awareness, extinction is permanent and forever. Please support funding and resources to this invaluable resource and preservation of the land and aina.

-Julia moritz, kailua

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 11:56:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Rochon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Gabrielle Rochon and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gabrielle Rochon

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 12:49:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Provisions placing the HISC under the Department of Agriculture should be removed.

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 1:05:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenna Maillet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Brenna Maillet and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

HISC and its county-based invasive species committees (ISCs) play a critical role in stopping invasive pests before they cause lasting damage to our environment, food systems, and communities. HISC coordinates across agencies to research, plan, engage community, and take action to hold the line and push back against the ever present threat of invasive pests. Despite limited funding, these teams have successfully prevented millions of dollars in damages by responding quickly to outbreaks, leading eradication efforts, and working with community groups to protect our forests, watersheds, and neighborhoods.

Moving HISC and the ISCs under DAB would be a big mistake with potentially devastating consequences. The Department of Agriculture has struggled for years to meet its existing responsibilities, and even after receiving historic levels of funding last year, much of that money remains unspent. Shifting control of our already successful invasive species programs to an untested structure within DAB could set us back years in the fight against invasive species.

Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear



benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Brenna Maillet*

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 3:45:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Meyer Gere	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

My name is Dominique Meyer Gere and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100. I appreciate and support the provisions to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

While I recognize and appreciate this measure's effort to get the Department of Agriculture to embrace its long-neglected role in biosecurity, I have serious concerns about placing the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and other external programs and projects under the rebranded Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), as well as the lack of accountability mechanisms for the proposed deputy of biosecurity.

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Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the

appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dominique Meyer Gere

**SB-1100-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 4:07:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alandra DeAndrea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,*

My name is Alandra DeAndrea and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS AND CONCERNS on SB1100 SD2. I appreciate the overall intent of this measure, to emphasize the need for the Department of Agriculture - to be renamed the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity - to embrace the particular and unique role it plays in our overall biosecurity strategy. **However, I STRONGLY OPPOSE placing the Department of Agriculture and the new deputy of biosecurity in charge of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity programs outside the Department of Agriculture's current purview.**

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Further, I urge you to consider amendments that will better ensure the department and deputy are held accountable to their responsibilities going forward, such as regular reporting requirements to the Board of Agriculture and the public, deadlines for invasive species action plans with clear

benchmarks for actions and outcomes, and initial and biannual confirmation hearings for the appointed deputy of biosecurity.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Sincerely,*

*Alandra DeAndrea*