

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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

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

**House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 411 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1220
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1220 appropriates funds for equipment for the Division of Aquatic Resources in the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure.**

In early 2023, a biologist performing survey work at Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam discovered several sea anemones that were later identified as *Anemonia majano* or majano anemone. It is likely the anemone was an aquarium release and subsequently the same species was confirmed in Kāne'ohe Bay by biologists with the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR).

This anemone species is not native to Hawai'i and can quickly reproduce and spread, smothering reefs and displacing native species. This anemone can also readily detach and reattach to new reef structures. Right now, the infestation of majano anemone is relatively contained and could be eradicated with increased resources and effort. Currently, DAR has no dedicated resources for this work because it is a newly detected species.

The Council recognizes the importance of protecting Hawai'i's marine ecosystems and the importance biosecurity plays for preventing new marine invasive species incursions. The Council provides funding to support research into detection and management of marine invasive species and supports the planner position under the Ballast Water and Hull Fouling coordinator.

The Council was formed in 2003 by Hawaii Revised Statutes 194 with the special purpose of providing policy level coordination and planning for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species. The Council is co-chaired by the directors of the Departments of Land and Natural Resources and Agriculture, and has leadership representation from the Departments of Health, Business and Economic Development, Transportation, and the University of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND

Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 AM

State Capitol, VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, Conference Room 411

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1220
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 1220 proposes to appropriate funds to support the efforts of the Division of Aquatic Resources in the removal of the invasive majano anemone from Kāne'ōhe Bay. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this bill.**

Background

Kāne'ōhe Bay is a unique and ecologically important marine environment that hosts a diverse range of marine species, including endemic coral species such as the finger coral (*Porites compressa*). These coral reefs not only support marine biodiversity but also provide essential services, including fish habitats, coastal protection, and recreational opportunities for our residents and visitors.

Unfortunately, the majano anemone (*Anemonia majano*), an invasive species, has recently been detected in Kāne'ōhe Bay, specifically in areas that were previously impacted by non-native coral introductions. First introduced as a hitchhiker on these non-native corals, the majano anemone has spread aggressively, blanketing an area of approximately 950 square yards. This invasive species poses a severe threat to the delicate coral reef ecosystem of Kāne'ōhe Bay.

The majano anemone is known for its rapid growth and ability to outcompete native coral species for space and resources. If left unchecked, the majano anemone could decimate coral populations in Kāne'ōhe Bay, destabilize the ecosystem, and negatively impact marine life, including the fish populations that depend on healthy reefs.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

Proposed Multi-Phase Removal Strategy

The Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) has developed a scientifically informed, multi-phase strategy for the removal of the majano anemone. This plan includes chemical control methods, as well as physical removal and smothering techniques that are tailored to the biology of the species. By using a combination of methods, we aim to effectively remove the majano anemone, reduce its spread, and restore the health of Kāneʻohe Bay’s coral reef ecosystem.

In addition to the technical aspects of removal, DAR will prioritize ongoing monitoring and data analysis to track the progress of our efforts and adjust strategies as needed. It is also essential that we engage the community and stakeholders in this process, and we will dedicate resources to outreach and education efforts to raise awareness about the invasive species and the importance of reef conservation.

Funding Support for Continued Efforts

The appropriation of \$200,000 for fiscal years 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 will provide the necessary funding to carry out this important work. These funds will support personnel costs, materials, equipment, data management, analysis, and outreach efforts. Continued support for these activities will help ensure that we can address the majano anemone infestation in a comprehensive and sustained manner, preventing further damage to Kāneʻohe Bay’s coral reefs.

Conclusion

The removal of the majano anemone from Kāneʻohe Bay is a crucial step in protecting the health of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs and the biodiversity they support. The Division of Aquatic Resources is committed to ensuring the success of this initiative and appreciates the legislature’s consideration of this bill to fund these efforts. We urge you to support House Bill 1220, as it will play an integral role in preserving the marine ecosystems that are essential to Hawai‘i’s environment, economy, and communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2025
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 411

HOUSE BILL NO. 1220
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill 1220 that appropriates funds to support the efforts of the Division of Aquatic Resources in the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. The Department of Agriculture (Department) supports this bill.

Biosecurity programs to prevent invasive species from entering the state and programs to control and mitigate the pests that are in-state is an interagency effort. The Department appreciates and supports the work of the Department of Land and Natural Resources to improve the quality of life and for the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.





House of Representatives
Committee on Water & Land
Thursday, January 30, 2025
9:00 am Conference Room 411 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1220

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB 1220**, which appropriates funds to support the removal of the majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay.

We believe the \$200,000 appropriated by HB 1220 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and for fiscal year 2026-2027 is an essential investment of State funds. The majano anemone is an invasive species with the potential to significantly impact coral reefs in Kaneohe Bay and beyond if it is not controlled. This species can live in sand and rubble, but also within coral branches. It can overgrow, smother, and kill coral. It easily fragments, with each fragment able to grow rapidly into a viable adult. This anemone can also move locations by detaching its “foot” and inching to a new open space. Many marine aquarium hobbyists refer to this as an invasive species and recommend against keeping it due to its invasive habit.

The multi-phase removal strategy proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources, could control this invasive species in Kaneohe Bay. Without this targeted control, the anemone will spread to other coral reef areas in the State and control actions will become more expensive and less effective.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HB1220.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

HB-1220

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 7:58:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 1/30/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Support for H.B. NO. 1220 with Recommendations for Broader Invasive Species Management

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill No. 1220, which allocates funds for the removal of the invasive majano anemone from Kaneohe Bay. This is a commendable step towards protecting our vital marine ecosystems. However, I would like to suggest amendments to the bill to also address other harmful alien invasive species that pose significant threats to Hawaii's biodiversity:

Support:

- **Proactive Environmental Action:** The immediate action against the majano anemone is essential for the health of our marine environments.
- **Integrated Strategy:** The multi-phase approach by the Division of Aquatic Resources is a model for managing invasive species with care and foresight.
- **Community and Education:** The inclusion of community engagement is critical for long-term conservation efforts.

Recommendations for Broader Invasive Species Management:

1. Expand Scope to Include Other Invasive Species:
 - Marine Invasives:
 - Smothering Seaweeds (*Kappaphycus* & *Eucheuma* spp.): These form thick mats that can kill corals, altering reef structures.
 - Prickly Seaweed (*Acanthophora spicifera*): Competes aggressively with native algae and can smother coral habitats.
 - Terrestrial Invasives:
 - Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*): Known for outcompeting native plants, reducing biodiversity, and causing soil erosion.
 - Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*): Poses threats to native species, agriculture, and human health.
 - Freshwater Invasives:
 - Suckermouth Catfish (*Hypostomus plecostomus*): Burrows into banks, causing erosion and habitat alteration.
 - Salvinia (*Salvinia molesta*): A floating fern that can cover water surfaces, blocking light and oxygen exchange.
2. Funding Allocation:
 - Increase the budget or allocate specific funds for each species or region needing intervention, considering that addressing multiple species might require more resources.
3. Integrated Management Plan:
 - Develop a comprehensive plan that not only focuses on removal but also on prevention, early detection, and rapid response for all these species, encouraging inter-agency cooperation.
4. Legislative Framework:
 - Consider adding legal frameworks for managing these species, including regulations on importation, sale, and transport of known invasive species.
5. Public Awareness and Education:
 - Expand educational programs to cover all these species, promoting public vigilance and participation in invasive species management.
6. Research and Development:
 - Include funding for research into biological control methods, understanding species interactions, and developing more effective eradication techniques.
7. Monitoring and Long-term Commitment:
 - Establish a long-term monitoring program to assess the spread and control of these species, ensuring resources are available for sustained efforts.
8. Collaboration with Stakeholders:
 - Engage more with landowners, farmers, fishers, and community groups for localized strategies and to gain support across different sectors.

By expanding H.B. NO. 1220 to cover these additional species, we can take a more holistic approach to invasive species management in Hawaii, safeguarding our ecosystems for future generations. I urge you to consider these enhancements to make the bill a comprehensive tool in our fight against invasive species.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I am available for further discussion on how we can collectively address these environmental challenges.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, HRM

Mo Radke
45-674 Apuakea St.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
moradke@gmail.com
808-386-3500
January 29, 2025

Committee on Water and Land
Hawai'i State Legislature
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1220 [HB1220] – RELATING TO
INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Lamosao, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB [Bill Number], which seeks to appropriate funds to the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for the removal of the invasive *Majano anemone* from Kāneʻohe Bay. This invasive species poses a significant and urgent threat to the delicate coral reef ecosystem, native marine biodiversity, and the overall health of Hawai'i's nearshore waters.

The presence of *Majano anemone* in Kāneʻohe Bay is alarming due to its aggressive nature and rapid spread. As noted in the bill, the anemone has already covered approximately 950 square yards of reef habitat, endangering critical endemic species such as *Porites compressa* (finger coral). If left unchecked, this invasive anemone could fundamentally alter the reef structure, outcompete native corals, and disrupt the ecological balance necessary to sustain fish populations and other marine life.

The proposed multi-phase removal strategy, which includes chemical control, physical removal, and smothering practices, is essential to mitigating the spread of this invasive species. Funding this initiative at the proposed \$200,000 per fiscal year (2025-2027) is a crucial investment in preserving Hawai'i's marine ecosystems. These funds will directly support personnel, materials, equipment, data management, and outreach efforts, all of which are necessary to ensure the success of this removal initiative.

As someone who deeply values the ecological and cultural significance of Hawai'i's reefs, I urge the legislature to pass HB [Bill Number] and allocate the necessary resources to protect Kāneʻohe Bay. Our coral reefs are not only a vital habitat for marine species but also a key component of our coastal resilience, local economy, and cultural heritage.

Immediate action is needed to prevent irreversible damage, and I respectfully and humbly request your strongest consideration in favor of this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With Aloha,

Mo Radke
Kaneohe Neighborhood Board
Testifying as a resident