

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
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DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
WAYS AND MEANS
and
JUDICARY

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 415 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1100, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 1100, Senate Draft 1 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 and private inspectors for imported plants and animals; requiring inspection of items transported interisland; authorizing pest management plans; and transferring the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to the new HDOA. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department currently administers the Council for administrative purposes only. The Legislature created the Council to provide policy-level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives to prevent, control, and eradicate harmful invasive species throughout Hawai'i. The Council is a collaborative, six-agency body that invests in a shared vision and mandate. Those agencies are the Department, HDOA, UH, the Department of Health, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Department of Transportation. The Department works with partners within a framework as recommended by the Interagency Biosecurity Plan to utilize existing resources, networks, and capacities to address biosecurity issues collectively and efficiently.

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.

If a new biosecurity agency is established, the Department urges that the existing functions, funding, and operations of the Council remain intact until the new agency has the necessary capacity, rules and regulations, and community network to implement the mandates under the biosecurity plan. The Council has proven approaches, resources, and a collaborative network at its disposal to prevent, manage, and mitigate the impacts of invasive species. Disruptions in management could exacerbate existing invasive species threats and create gaps in protection at a time when continuity is essential.

The Department supports efforts to strengthen biosecurity. However, we urge the Legislature to ensure that the Council remains operational and adequately funded until the transition to a new structure is fully realized.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.



LATE

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
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

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NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

DEAN I HAZAMA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR | KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
and
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Wednesday, February 19, 2023
10:16 a.m.
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

On the following measure:
S.B. 1100, S.D. 1, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Nadine Ando, and I am the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (Department or DCCA). 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; (4) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals and requires inspection of various items transported interisland; (5) increase penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; (6) require the Department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to

unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; (7) authorize pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests; (8) transfer the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department; (9) authorize the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; (10) authorize the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; and (11) appropriate funds.

Committee Report SSCR652 states that the Committees believe that the 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. While the Department is supportive of licensure outlined in amendments to HRS section 150A-D and 150A-E at page 43 line 16 through page 46 line 2, we have concerns over the training requirements of biosecurity inspectors, which is an area of expertise that is under the purview of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

The DCCA defers to the DOA regarding pests as the agency with the authority to manage pest and that has significantly more knowledge and expertise in the inspection, identification, and treatment of pests, as well as for diseases and infections. 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 training of biosecurity inspectors, as proposed in S.B. 1100.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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
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KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS AND JUDICIARY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025
10:16 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1100, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1100, SD1, 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, offers comments and suggested changes, and is appreciative of the inclusion of prior 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. To address this, the Department suggests the following of a new subsection to HRS 150A-D:

(h) The department of commerce and consumer affairs shall provide the department 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 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.

On page 45, beginning on line 17, the Department suggests the following change for clarity because the definition of “department” already existing in HRS 150A-2:

§150A-E Biosecurity inspector; powers. (a) Subject to rules adopted by the department of commerce and consumer affairs under chapter 91, a licensed biosecurity inspector may certify items located in a transitional facility as free of diseases, infections, infestations, and other items that the department [~~of agriculture and biosecurity~~] deems relevant.

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.

The Department supports the intent of the proposed new section in HRS 150A 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 be in conflict 4-69, HAR and would require the Department to implement and maintain a control or eradication program pursuant to HRS 141-3.5, for each pest designated in this manner.

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 it 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 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.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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VOTING MEMBERS

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PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Senate Committees on WAYS AND MEANS JUDICIARY

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

10:16 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 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 1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 1100 Senate Draft 1 carries out a number of actions with the intention of improving biosecurity through the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) provides comments on this measure.**

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).

HISC is established through Hawaii Revised Statute 194. The Council's purpose is to provide statewide coordination and policy direction for the prevention and management of invasive species. It is co-chaired by the directors of the Departments of Agriculture and Land & Natural Resources, and representation from leadership at the Departments of Transportation, Health, Business and Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawai'i. The Council is administered by the Department of Land & Natural Resources and is an independent forum not serving any one department or mission but working with the overall purpose of coordinating department efforts to manage invasive species.

A suggested amendment is to change language so that it is clear that the Council is only administered by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and that it retains its intended function outlined in Hawaii Revised Statute 194 and the Legislative Reference Bureau Report from 2002 that established the Council.

- Remove 194 from "There is established within the department a deputy chairperson for biosecurity. 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."

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

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 10:16 a.m.

By
Philip Williams
Acting Dean
College of Natural Sciences
And
Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

SB 1100 SD1 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1100 SD1 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1100, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:16 AM

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

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, SD1, 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, SD1 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.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 19, 2025

10:16 AM

Conference Room 211

COMMENTS on SB1100 SD1: RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **offers COMMENTS AND CONCERNS** regarding SB1100 SD1, 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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 Committees 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



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

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 Committees adopt the amendments described above, or HOLD this bill.**

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS and JUDICIARY
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 211
Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

To The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Ways and Means
To The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Judiciary

LATE

SUPPORT SB1100 SD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB1100 SD1**, 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 SD1** 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.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 am Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony Providing Comments on SB 1100 SD1

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony regarding SB 1100 SD1, *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.¹

However, CGAPS is not in support of this bill and is providing comments due to concerns with the following:

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

SB 1100 (Part VII, beginning on page 74) moves the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC or Council) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to HDOAB and the

¹ 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.

amendment made by section 19 (beginning on page 22, line 15) places HISC under the Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity.

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.

We respectfully request the Committees preserve the HISC as an independent Council, guided by its co-chairs and members, and administratively attached to DLNR by:

1. Striking Part VII.
2. Striking sections 36 and 37.
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 of Biosecurity

Part III of SB 1100 (beginning on page 22) creates a new Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity (DCB) and creates another new deputy position within HDOAB. These two 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. Considering the DCB's critical responsibilities, it seems appropriate that each DCB appointee should require the advice and consent of the Senate as provided in section 6, article V, of the Hawaii State Constitution. Further, the amendments made to section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, (HRS) create two additional deputies or assistants within HDOAB that are exempt from Hawaii's civil service law. (Pg. 30, line 18, through pg. 31, line 3) It is unclear to us from the bill text why two new exempt positions should be created and what responsibilities they would be charged with.

We respectfully request the Committees provide for legislative oversight of the appointment of the new Deputy Chairperson for Biosecurity 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, with the advice and consent of the Senate.”
2. Striking the language proposed to be inserted beginning on page 30, line 18, through page 31, line 3.

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

We appreciate the increased inspection authorities for live animals and plants and certain agricultural commodities moving between islands of the State in section 27 of SB 1100 SD1 (beginning on pg. 59, line 5). Preventing pests from moving between islands is critical to containing and suppressing populations of pests already present in the State. However, we note that the deletions proposed to section 150A-8, HRS, on page 59, lines 7 through 11, remove 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, HDOAB will not be able to carry out any program to suppress pests such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle on a single island.² **The language proposed to be removed is the authority for the recently adopted amendments to chapter 72, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), places those amendments within HDOA's biosecurity program, and allows HDOA to issue a penalty for violations.** We also believe these intra-state authorities should explicitly apply to materials that carry pests and not just the pests themselves.

² 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 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.

Further, we note that the amendments made by section 27: (1) repeat the “good cause” standard for inspections used in section 150A-5 HRS, which is not an appropriate inspection standard;³ (2) the authority to inspect all items moving between islands of the State, using the “good cause” standard exists in current law and is set out on page 53, lines 18-19 of SB 1100 SD1; and (3) will be a substantial change to HDOA’s current interisland inspection requirements under chapter 72, HAR, which may be difficult to roll-out without significant delays to passengers moving between islands.

We respectfully request the Committees consider 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 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 the Committees consider adding a new section at the end of Part II of SB 1100 SD1 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 As the Hawaii Supreme Court noted in Eckard Brandes, Inc. v. Dep't of Lab. & Indus. Rels., 146 Haw. 354, 363 (2020), as corrected (Apr. 27, 2020): “Black’s Law Dictionary now defines ‘good cause’ as ‘[a] legally sufficient reason. Good cause is often the burden placed on a litigant (usu. by court rule or order) to show why a request should be granted or an action excused. Accordingly, we clarify that ‘good cause’ is ‘a sufficient reason, depending upon the circumstances of the individual case, and that a finding of its existence lies largely in the discretion of the court.’” (internal citations omitted)

- (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 (beginning on page 35) 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 (pg. 37, lines 12 -15) to respond in the “event of an emergency due to a breach of the State’s biosecurity measures.”

“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 the Committees 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 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 SD1 (beginning on page 40) 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.

In addition, implementing the transitional facilities proposed by Part V will be a big undertaking. 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 SD1, in section 31 (beginning on pg. 70, line 14), adds two 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 the Committees consider requiring businesses to comply with the terms of the agreement by inserting on page 71, between lines 18 and 19, the following:

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

The second new section (beginning on page 71, line 19) allows any person to request HDOAB fund management activities for new and possibly existing pests under a pest management plan. The 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 the Committees consider inserting “including any unit of State or local government” after “Any person” on page 71, line 19.

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.

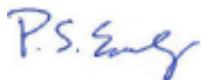
Further, as drafted, the pest management plan approval process creates a first come/first served grant program for using State funds to control pests. We suggest that HDOAB either consider all plans at one time each year, with an exception for rapid response for new pests, or HDOAB itself identify the 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 SD1.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

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SB1100sd1, Relating to Biosecurity
Senate WAM/JDC Decision Making Hearing – 10:16 AM
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Senate WAM/JDC Committees:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have also served as an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

We appreciate 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.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

BIISC
23 E. Kawili St.
Hilo, HI 96720
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February 18, 2025

**Hearing: Senate Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Judiciary
RE: SB1100**

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee would like to express opposition to SB1100. 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. This bill includes some important measures that could significantly improve our state's ability to prevent and respond to new species incursions modeled on New Zealand's rigorous yet efficient system of inspections for incoming goods. We are highly encouraged and supportive of these measures.

However, we are concerned about the proposal to move the Hawaii Invasive Species Council under HDOA from where it has been for two decades, within 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 ISCs 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 ISCs are often referred to as the "gap-fillers."

From the beginning, the core mission of the ISCs 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 ISCs 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 never fallen under HDOA's mandates 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 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 these programs by shifting into a narrow agriculture protection focus through HDOA, 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



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 AM Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony – In Opposition of SB1100 “Relating to Biosecurity”

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Moriwaki and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

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.

However, OISC opposes SB1100 given the lack of clarity surrounding the portion of this bill 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 Department of Agriculture (DOA).

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

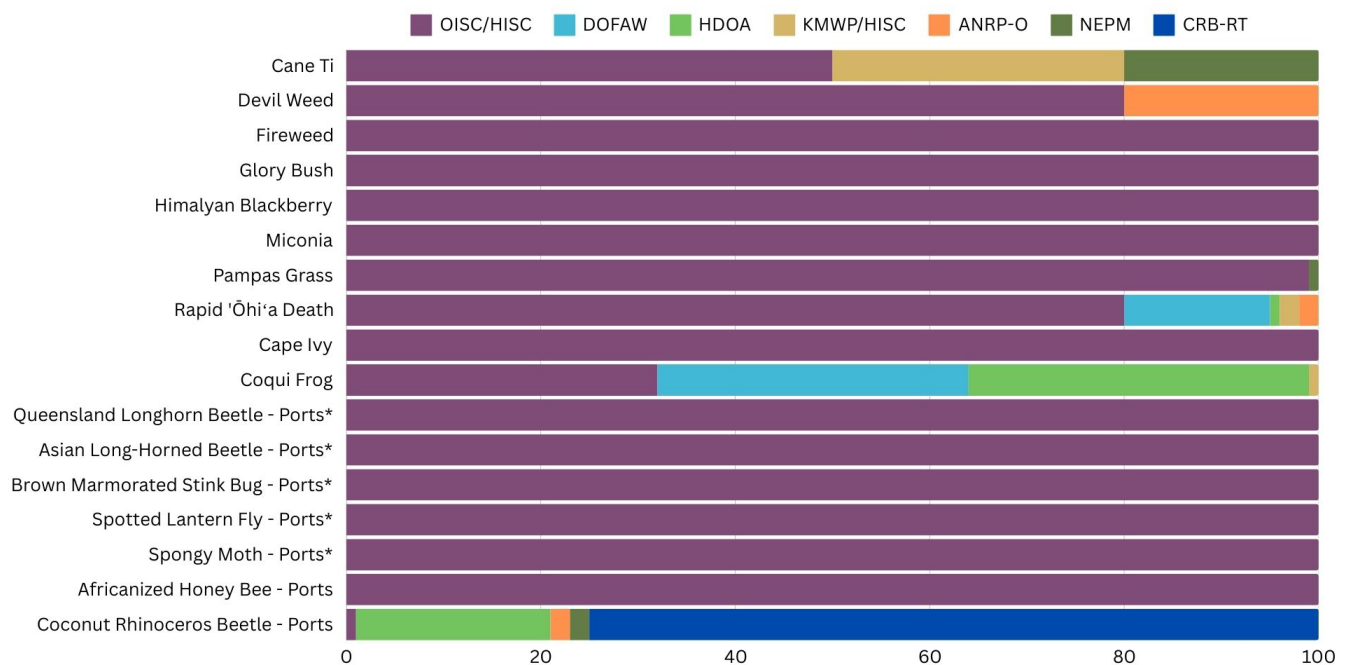
able to respond to these species and they then establish in State Forest Reserves or Natural Area Reserves, they would become the responsibility of DLNR. The same can be said for high-value tourist areas. For example, OISC and the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) have worked to contain the infestation in Lanikai 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. 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.

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:

OISC Current Target Species

Estimated work load (%) by organization

**indicates work conducted in federal jurisdictions, primarily within the Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ)*



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

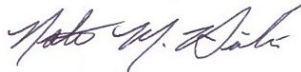
state passthrough funding from any other departments and was not made eligible to apply for any of the Act 231 Biosecurity funds through DOA.

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,



Nate Dube
OISC Manager
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

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

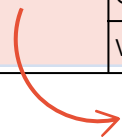
The following report provides detailed insights into OISC's outreach endeavors and highlights how we spread awareness about invasive species a remarkable 596,226 times in 2023.

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.

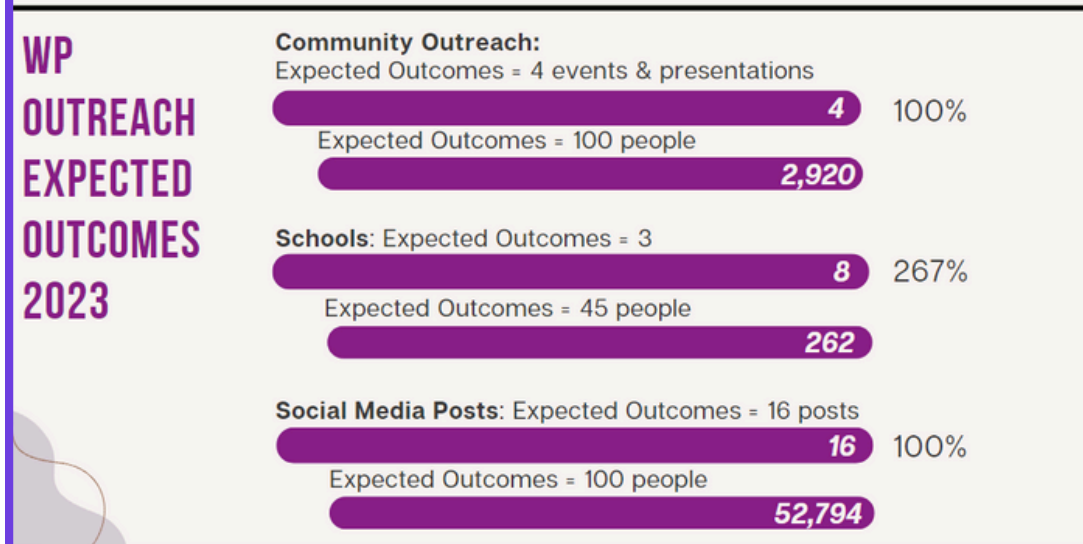
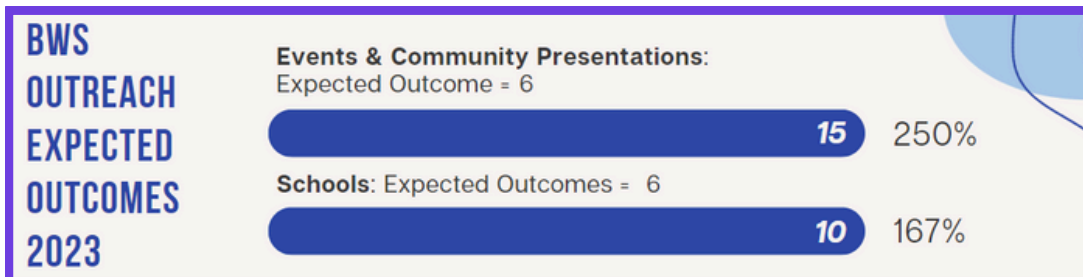
We reached or exceeded all expected outcomes except for ANRP-O, which received an extension until March 31, 2024.

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.*

FUNDER EXPECTED OUTCOMES - 2023



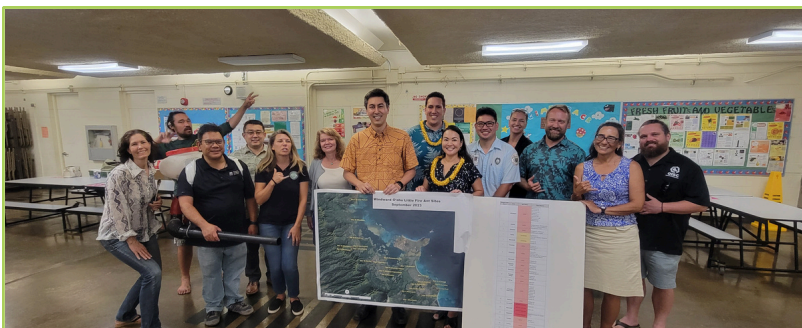
2023 OISC PROGRAM GOALS:

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'ōhe Town Hall hosted by Sen. Keohokalole 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



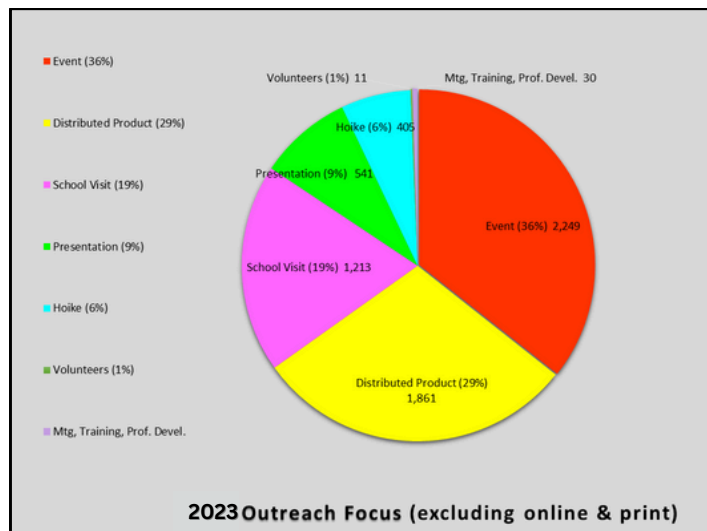
2023 COMPLETED OUTREACH: 596,226

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
TOTAL	596,226



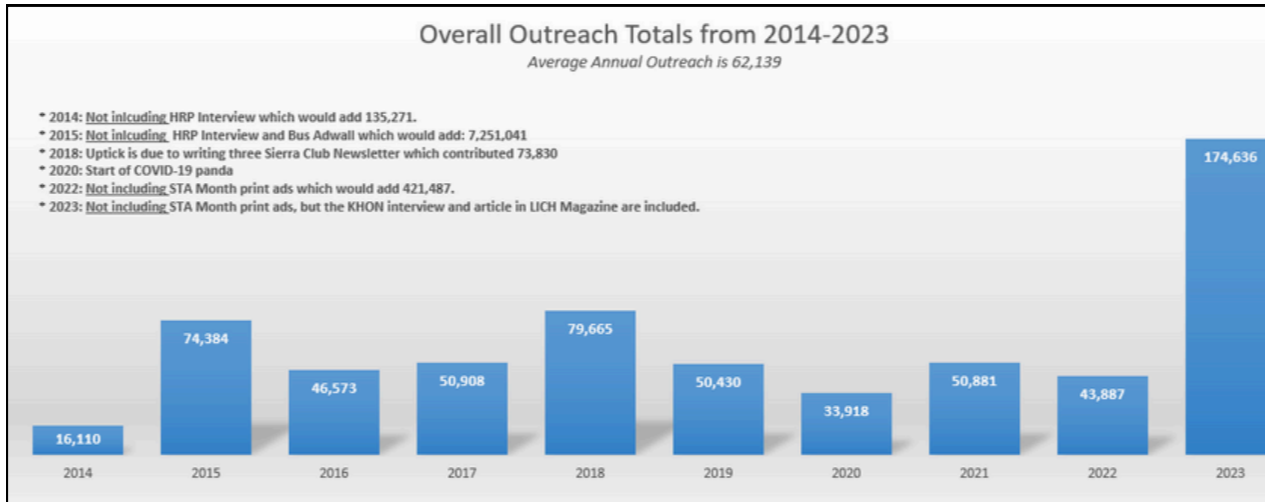
Detailed table of 2023 outreach in Appendix 1



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

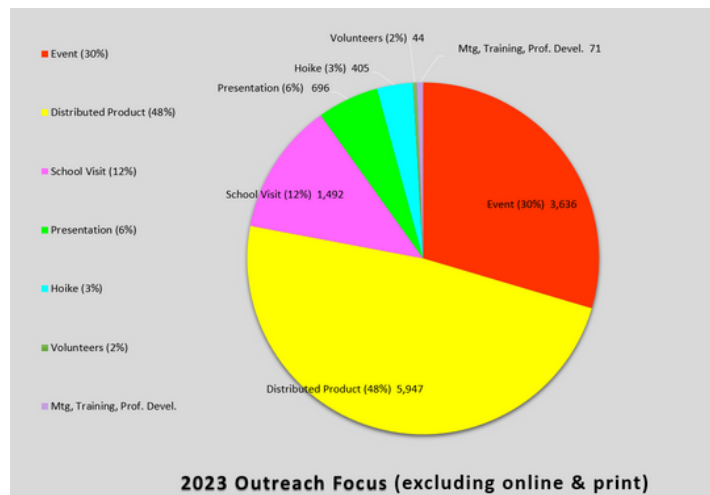
OISC OUTREACH TOTALS -2023

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.

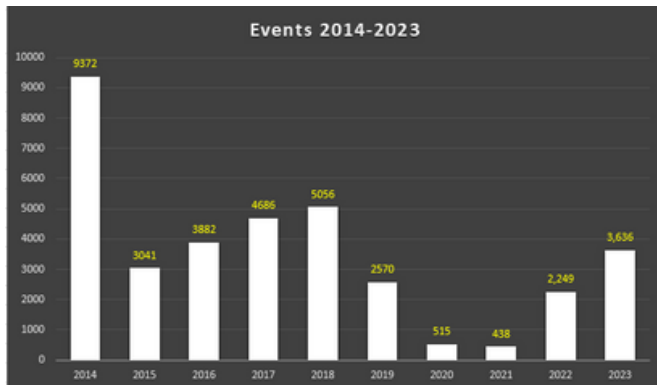


The primary outreach methods utilized for both OISC objectives and fundraising initiatives include events, community presentations, school visits, social media engagement, website utilization, and volunteer programs. Additionally, secondary outreach methods encompass written articles, radio or television 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.

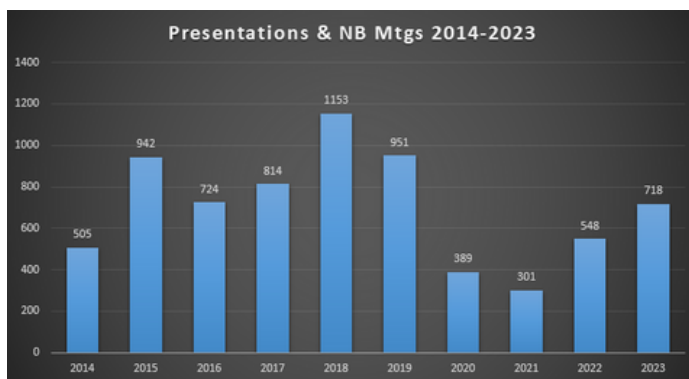
When used collectively, employing diverse messaging techniques can efficiently prompt desired actions, such as reporting incidents, advocating for legislative support, securing access for field operations, or promoting practices like decontamination.



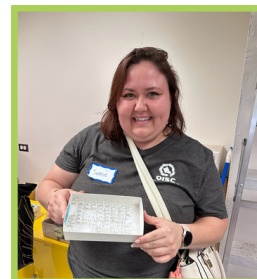
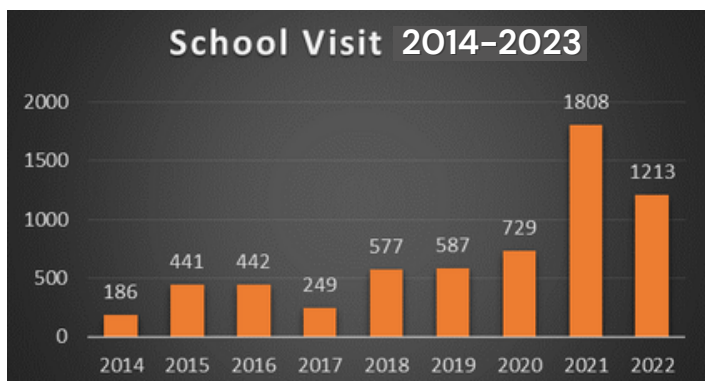
OISC attended **35 unique events, reaching 3,636 people** in 2023 reaching approximately 3,636 people. We are pleased to see our outreach is climbing back towards pre-COVID rates. Events attended this year include the Pest World Conference and HI Pet Expo.



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.

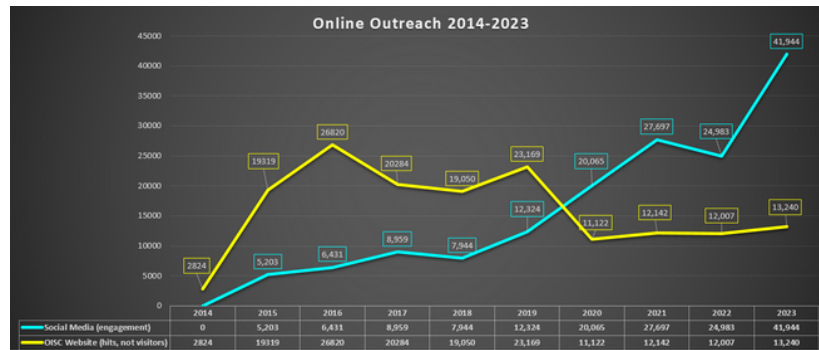


OISC delivered presentations to fifty classes at K-12 and university levels, engaging with 1,213 students across 20 schools in 2023. The Hō'ike LFA Activity is separately accounted for and is not included in the school visits data.



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.

Volunteer 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).

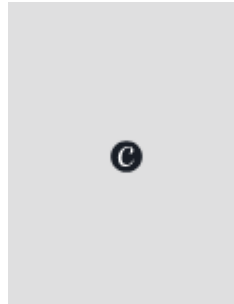
DWC Beginning in 2021, COVID-19 restrictions and PCSU’s new volunteer policy had significant impacts on how we conduct volunteer opportunities. To compensate, OISC developed the self-led volunteer program “Devil Weed Crew (DWC)” implemented and revamped with a "DWC Challenge" in 2022 to include incentives 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.



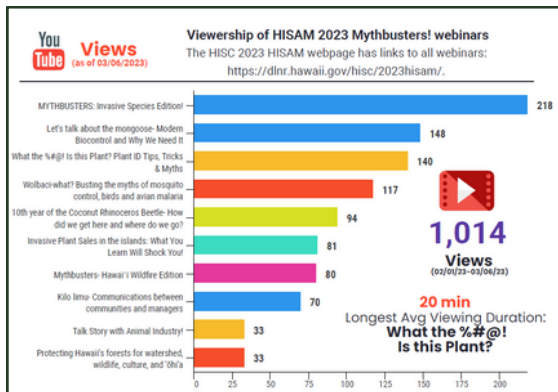
2023 Devil Weed Crew	
Volunteer Hours	80
DWC Guides Mailed	13
Unique Trails	9
Miles of trails	141
Hours	80
Unique Vols	6
Imm	777
Mat	34



Devil Weed Crew

- o Launched in February 2021.
- o 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)
- o List of trails to be surveyed on website (kept up to date with latest surveys).
- o Look-a-like guide for volunteers upon request (114 since 2021, 13 in 2023).
- o Rack card on how to use the AllTrails app to survey.
- o 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

The 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.



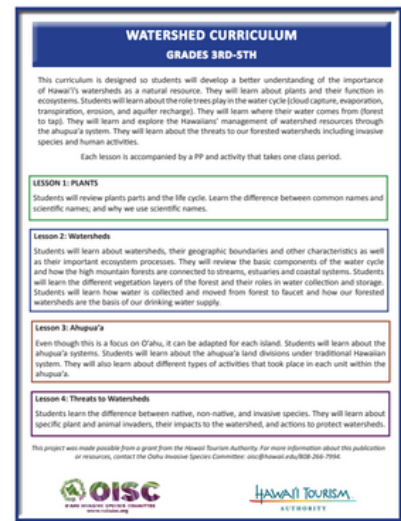
During HISAM, OISC participated in 3 HISAM Webinars; "Mythbusters", "Wolbaci-what?", and "Invasive Plant Sales in the Islands".

- 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

Watershed 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.



www.StopTheAnt.org

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%
TOTALS	333	684	832	18%

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

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

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

OR CALL: 808-286-4616

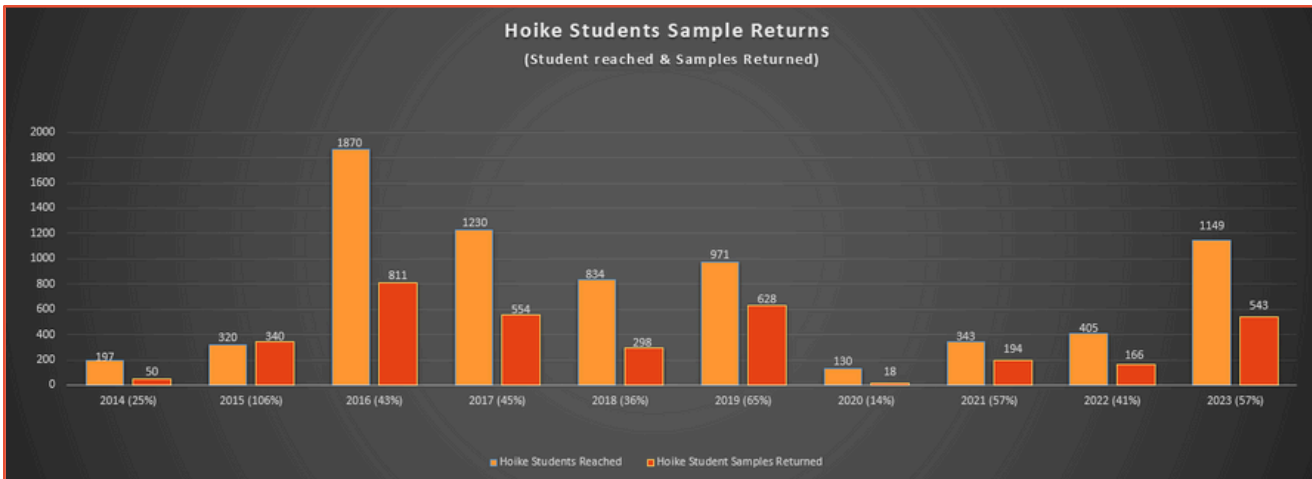
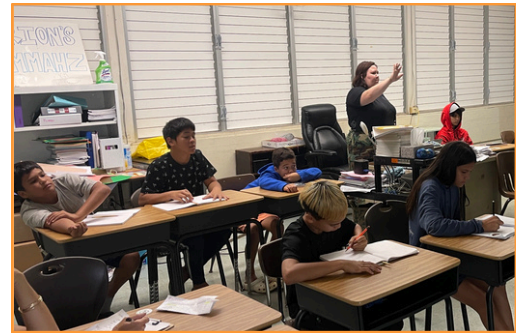


Ad in the Star Advertiser (10/8/23) and Midweek (10/18/24).

H

ō'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.

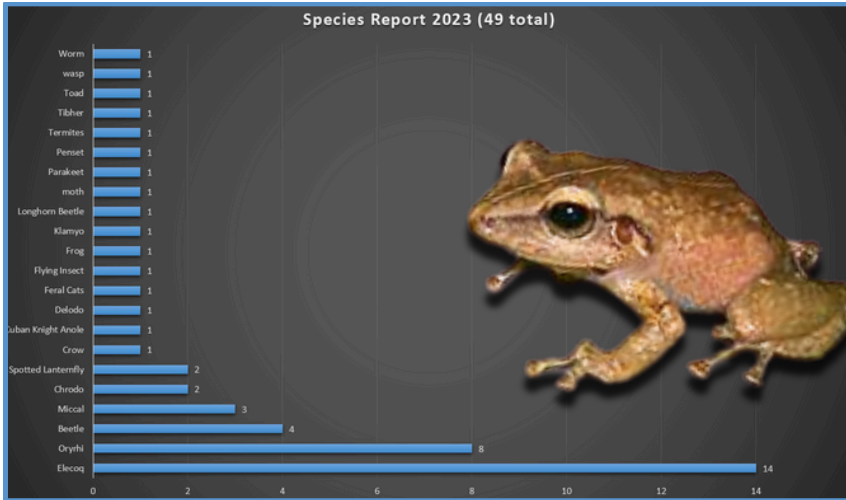
Hoike 2023	
Unique schools	11
Students reached	1149
Days	28
# of times presentation given	77
Samples rec'd	543
Return Rate	57%
Pos LFA	1



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

OISC OUTREACH TOTALS - 2023 - HŌ'IKE LFA ACTIVITY

- 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 (oryzhi)	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.

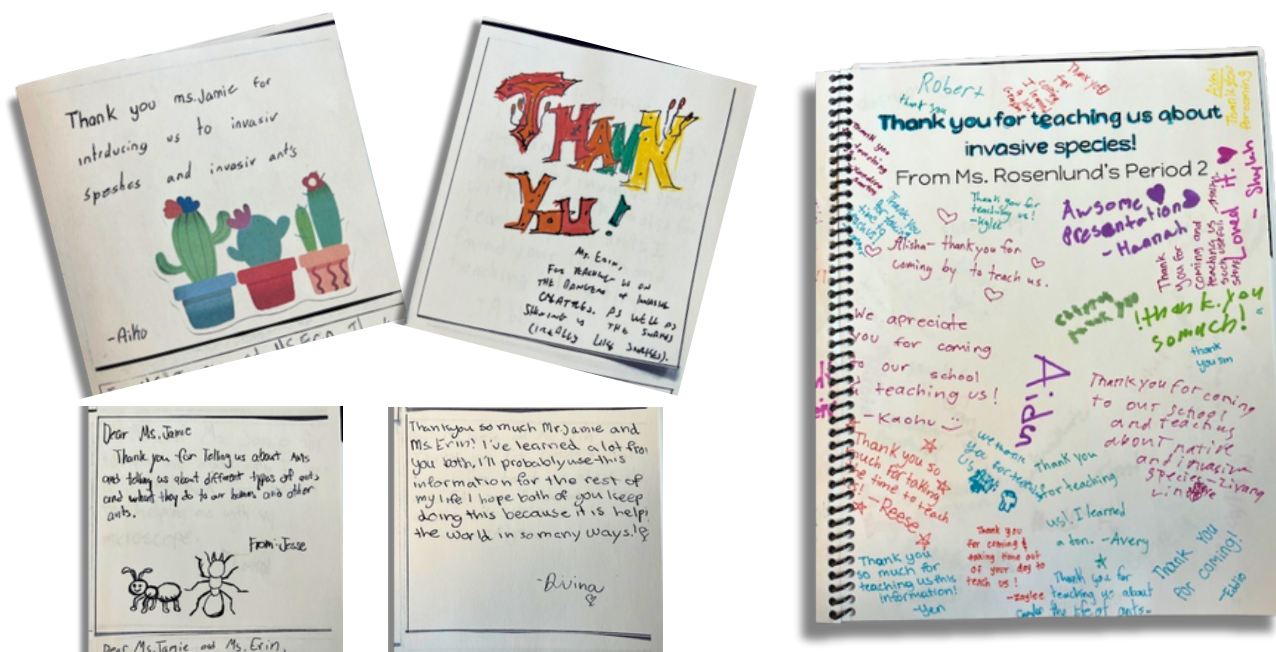
The presenter delivered the material in a clear and structured manner.	The presenter was knowledgeable about the topic and any related issues.	The presenter maintained audience interest during the entire presentation.	The presenter was well organized and prepared.	The presenter was enthusiastic about 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



2023 SOCIAL MEDIA REPORT

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE



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.

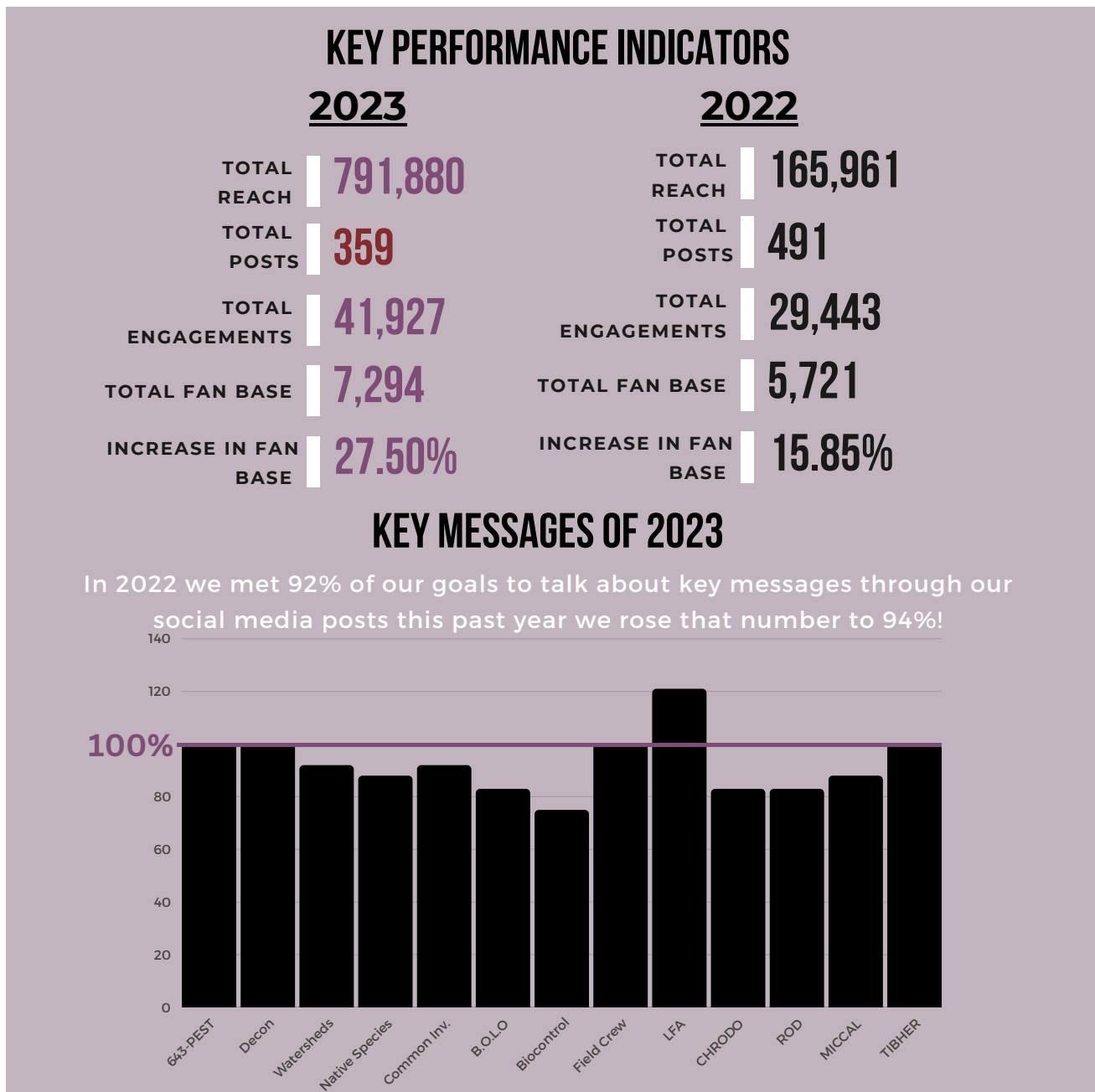
PROFILES DISCUSSED IN THIS REPORT

- @oahuisc Instagram profile
- @oahuisc Facebook profile
- @oahuisc TikTok Profile
- Oah'ū 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.



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.

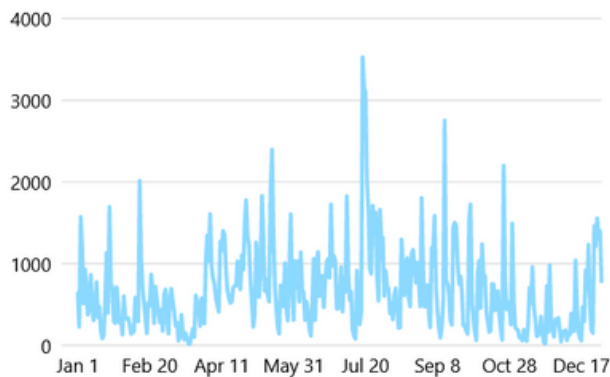
IG STATS	2023
Total Posts	139
Total Stories Posted	632
Engagements	31,722
Impressions	398,209
Total Followers	4,062
Average Reach Each Month	7,345

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

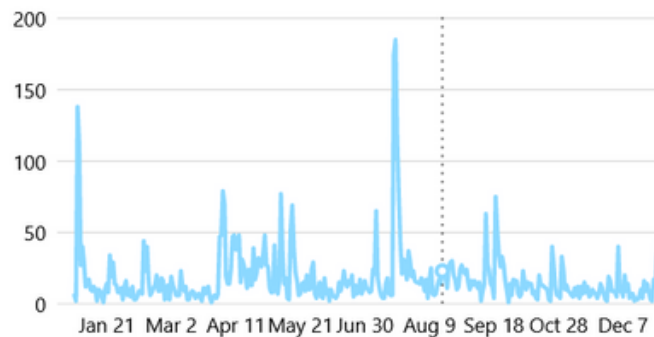
Instagram reach ⓘ

47.0K ↑ 3.3%



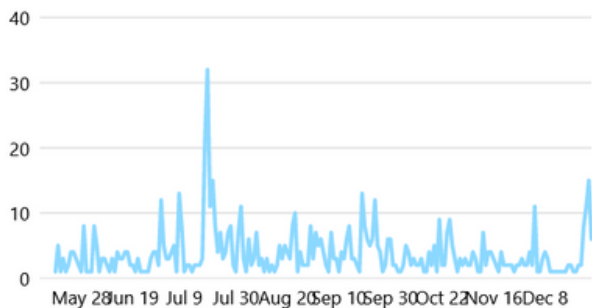
Instagram profile visits ⓘ

6,397 ↑ 40.7%



New Instagram followers ⓘ

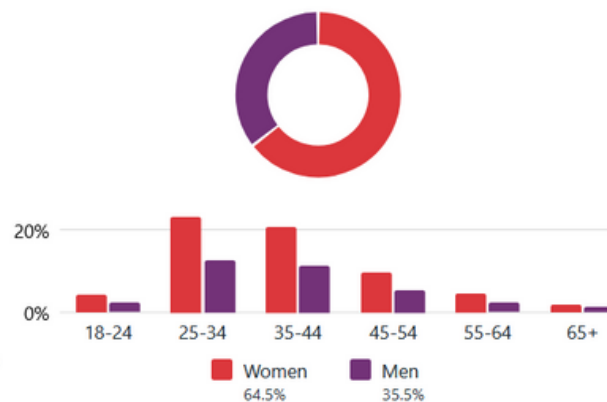
793 _



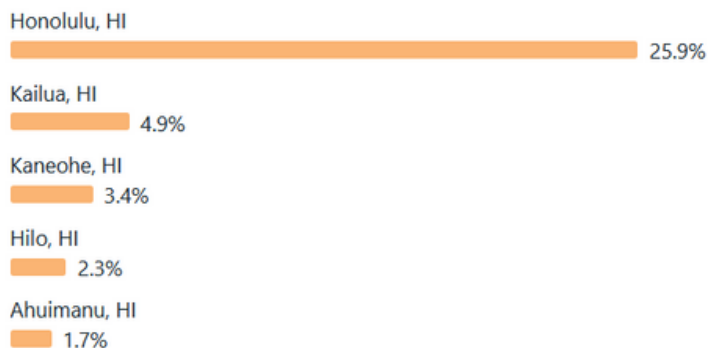
Instagram followers ⓘ

4,136

Age & gender ⓘ



Top cities



INSTAGRAM: TOP POSTS

These were the top posts of 2023 based on likes.

<p>1</p> 	<p>Kick off NHPM Reel with Jazzy Notorius BIG Song</p>	<p>2</p> 	<p>Native Hawaiian Plant Color Pallettes</p>
<p>3</p> 	<p>West Indian Wood Nettle Sold as Māmaki</p>	<p>4</p> 	<p>'Ōhi'a Narrative 1st Person</p>
<p>5</p> 	<p>Centipede in 'Ōhi'a Tree</p>	<p>6</p> 	<p>Weekly Dose of Views from the Bird</p>
<p>7</p> 	<p>Healthy Watersheds Waterfall Reel</p>	<p>8</p> 	<p>Guinea Grass Invasive Highlight</p>
<p>9</p> 	<p>June 2023 LFA Detections</p>	<p>10</p> 	<p>B.O.L.O. Spotted Lanternfly</p>

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!

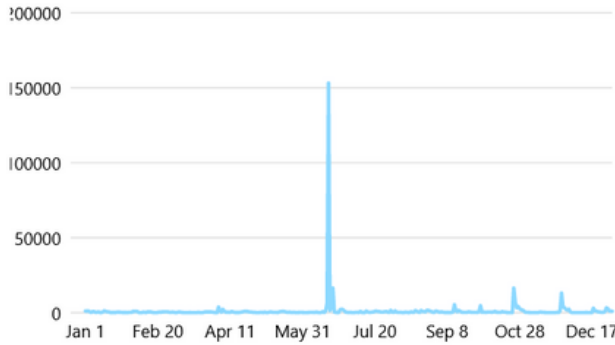
FB STATS	2023
Total Posts	185
Total Post Shares	911
Engagements	8,589
Average Reach Each Month	28,441
Total Followers	2,636

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

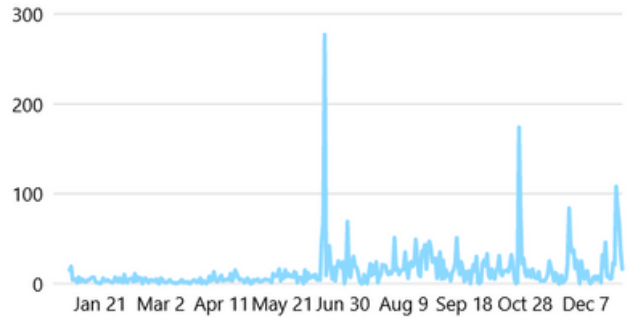
Facebook reach ^①

293.4K ↑ 556.7%



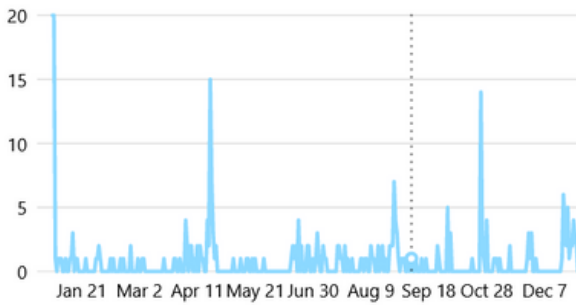
Facebook visits ^①

4,754 ↑ 436.6%

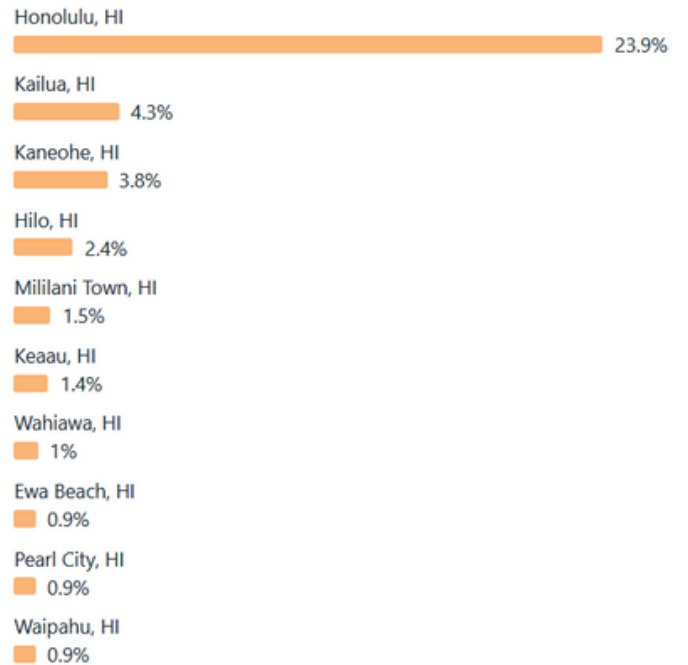


Facebook Page new likes ^①

290 ↑ 35.5%



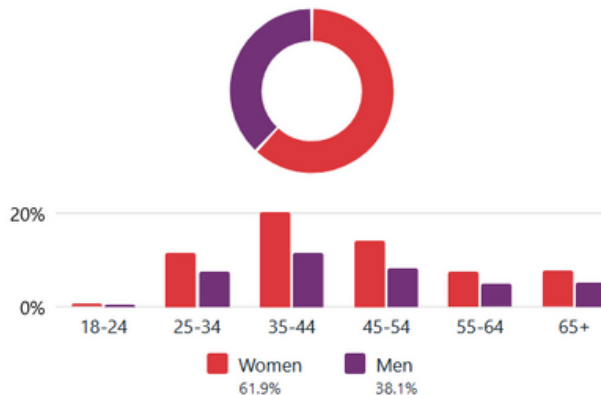
Top cities



Facebook followers ^①

2,664

Age & gender ^①



FACEBOOK: TOP POSTS

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

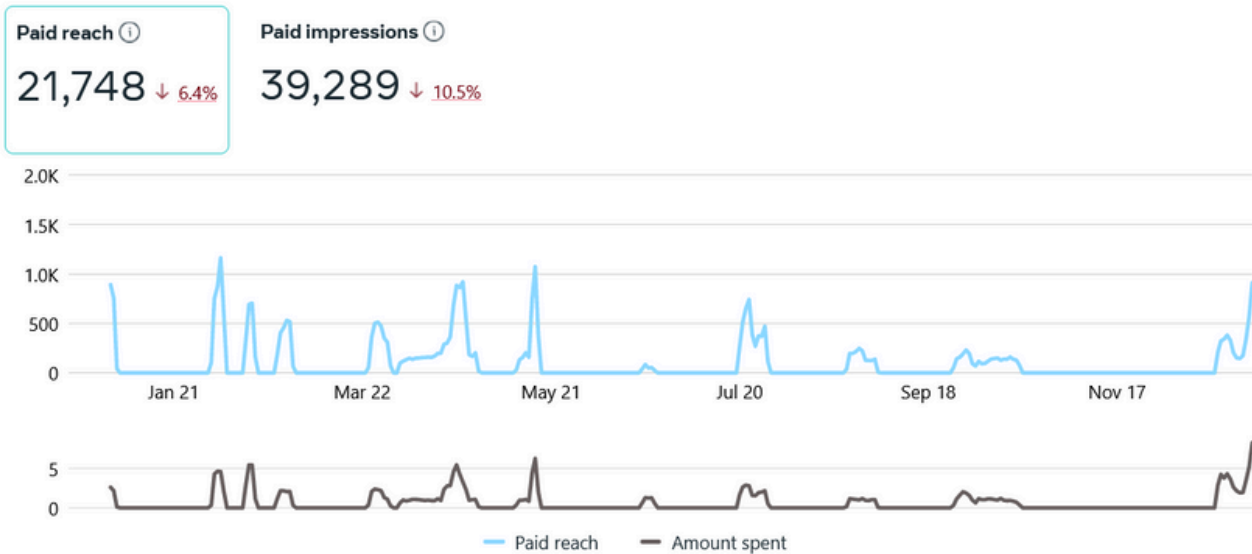
<p>1</p> 	<p>Mean Mug Cane Ti in Native Forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likes: 262 • Comments: 24 • Shares: 25 • Reach: 26,664 	<p>2</p> 	<p>West Indian Wood Nettle Sold as Māmaki</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Likes: 134 • Comments: 31 • Shares: 170 • Reach: 36,734
<p>3</p>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

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
TOTAL	285.00	229.62

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

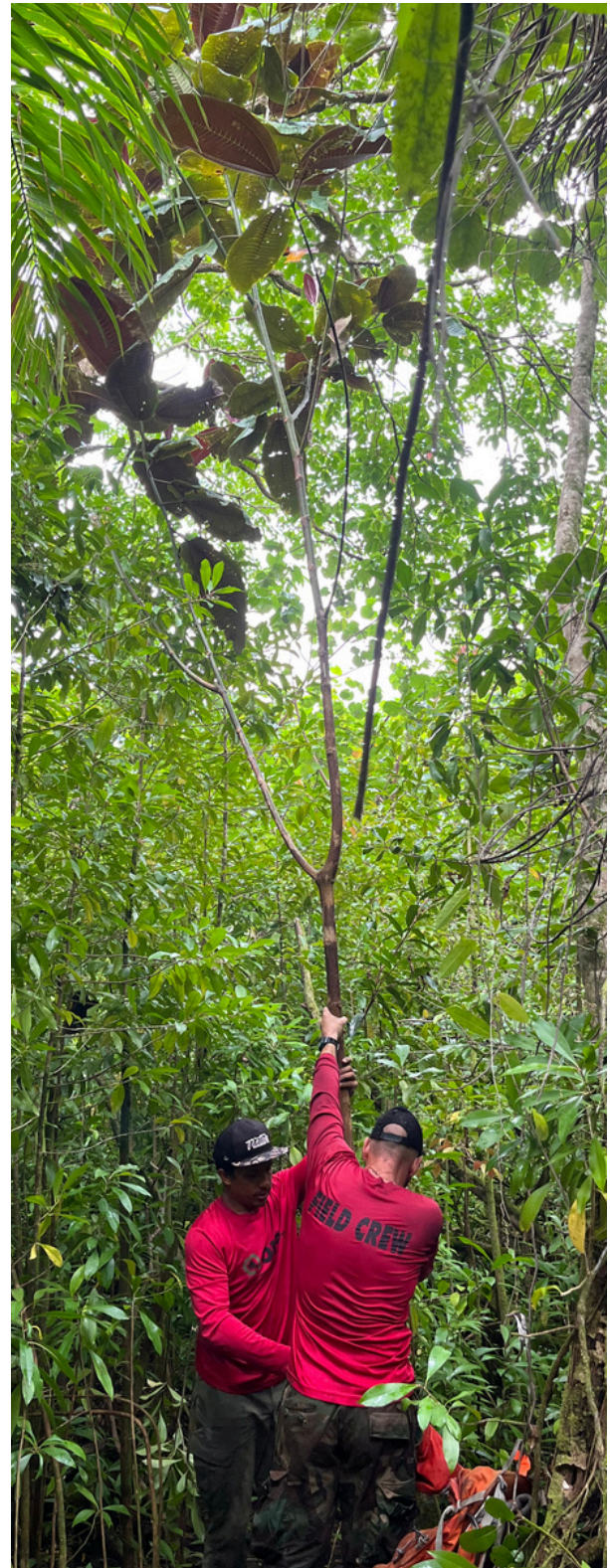


LOOKING FORWARD

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

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

APPENDIX

Link to Google Drive for detailed outreach information:

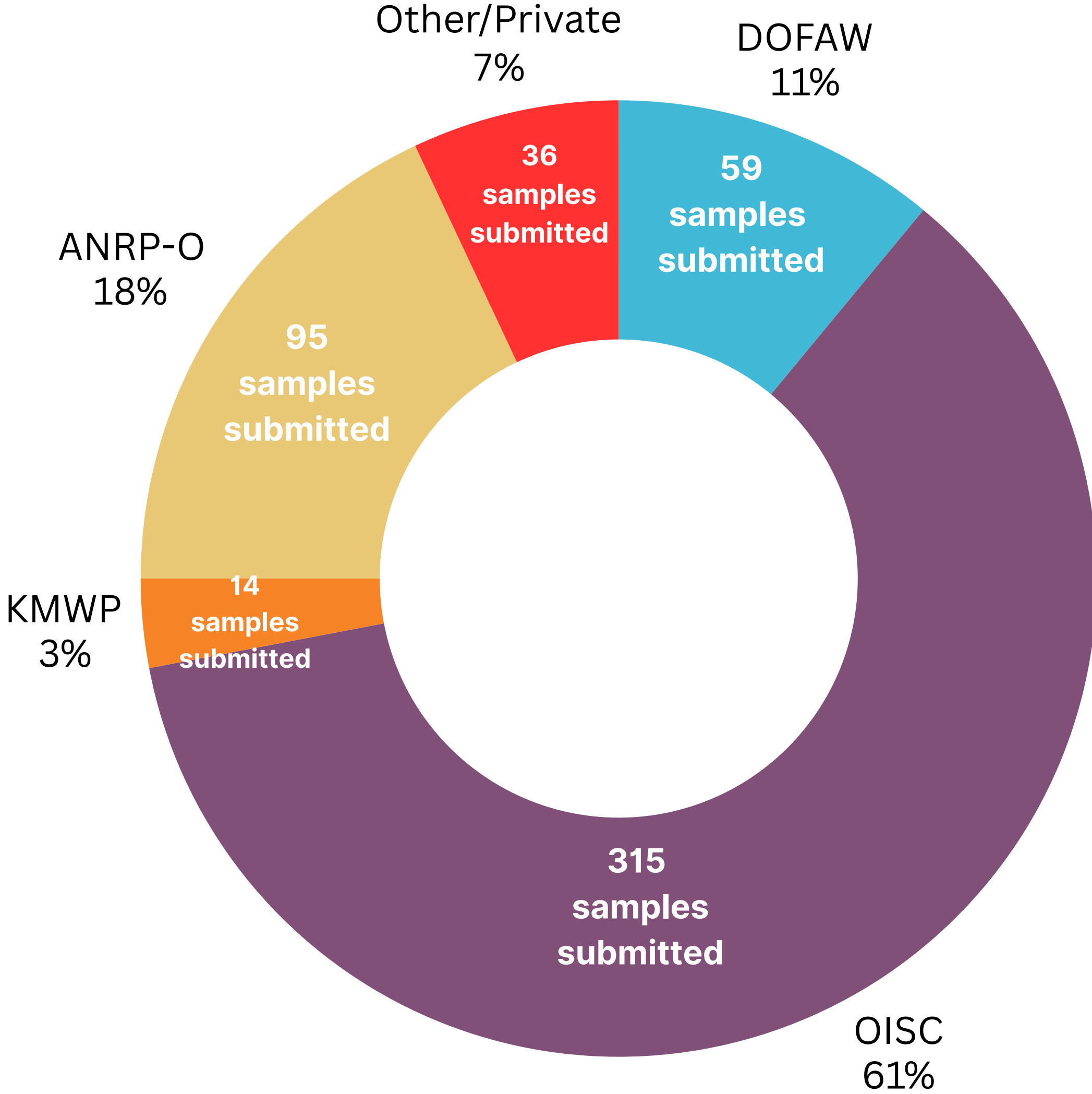
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1m0yT-b_LfcTIXkVI2Y6urjAGfkb9I5mu/edit?usp=drive_link&oid=108814632114028959927&rtppof=true&sd=true

PCO vs OISC Response Cost Breakdown

Cost Comparison for one site:			
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		
OISC Estimates:	High (full 8hr day)	Mid (split difference of 8hr and 5.5hr day)	Low (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
<i>% less than PCO.</i>	<i>9.64%</i>	<i>37.88%</i>	<i>66.12%</i>

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



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.

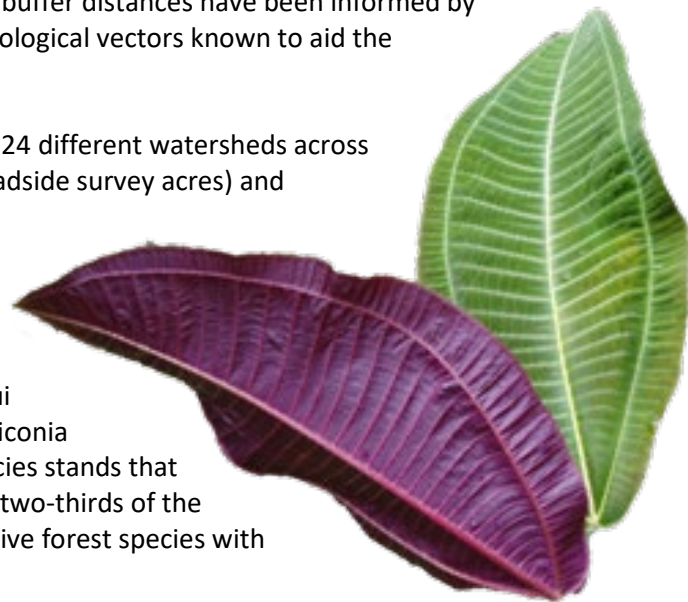
Miconia (*Miconia calvescens*)

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.

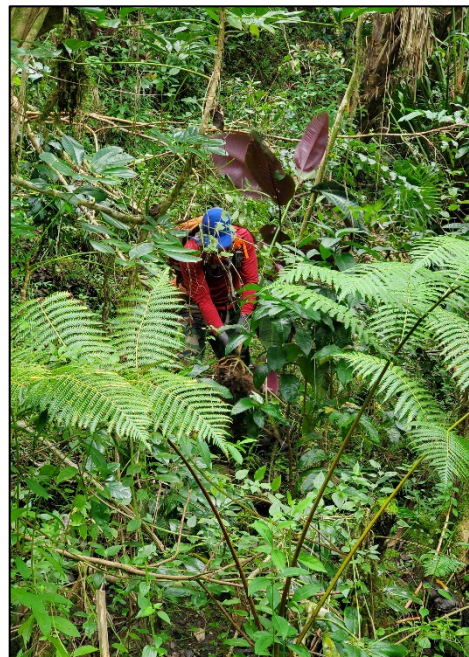
Unfortunately, miconia seeds remain viable in the soil for at least 18 years, making this a project that requires long-term financial commitment. OISC's strategy is to survey the entire estimated seed bank of miconia every two to three years to find and remove trees before they mature. OISC utilizes 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.



Staff filling Precision-Point Sprayer during an aerial control operation for devil weed in Kahana valley

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.



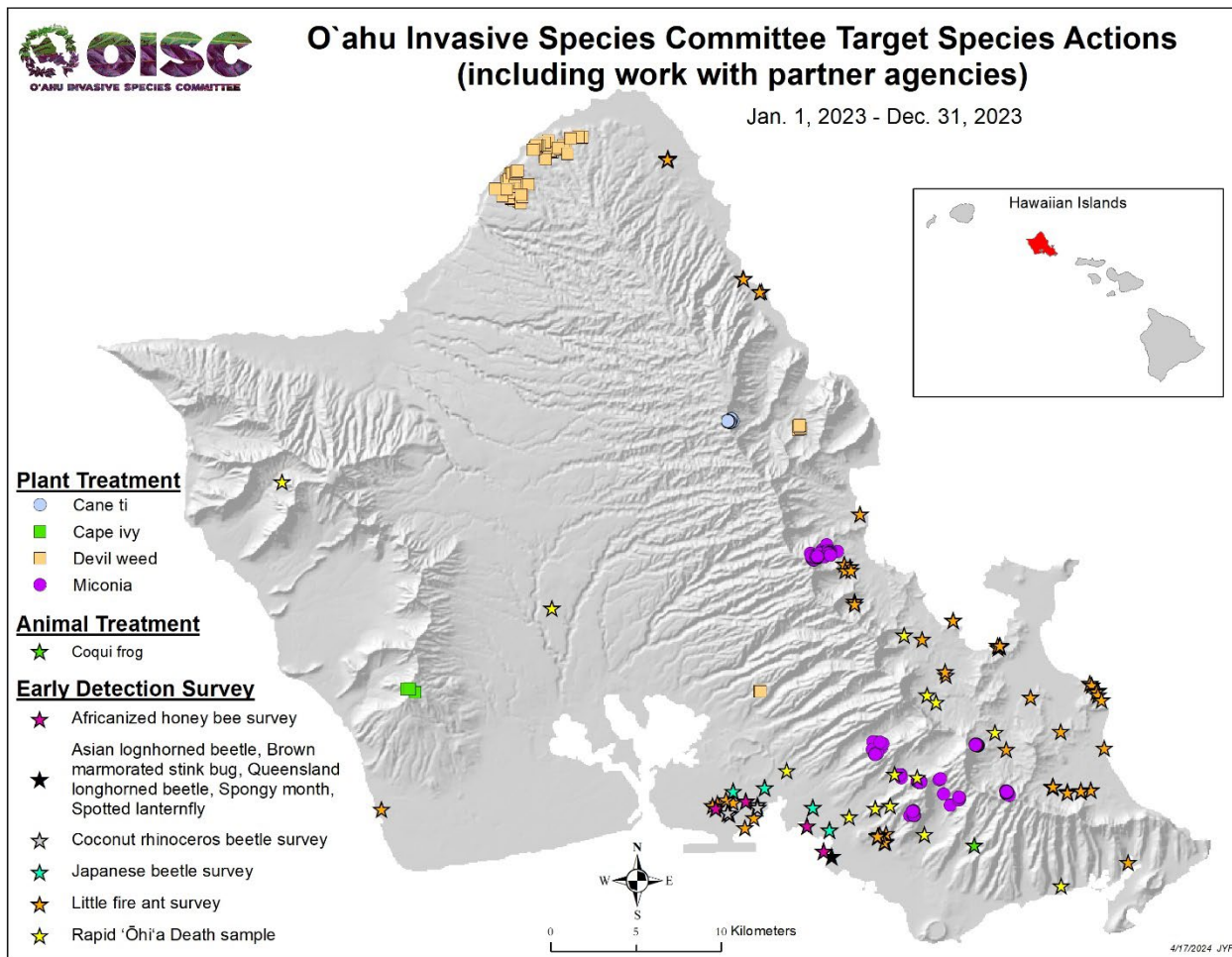
Staff showcasing LFA testing supplies (peanut butter and chopsticks) at the annual Punahou Carnival Plant Sale.

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.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Committee on Judiciary
Wednesday, February 19, 2025
10:16 AM Conference Room 211
State Capitol



Testimony providing comments on SB1100 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Moriwaki, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 SD1, *Relating to Biosecurity*. Please see comments on the following sections:

Movement and restructure of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council

Part III Section 19 (page 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 74) moves the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) under the newly named Hawaii Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Part X Section 42 (page 86) 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. Invasive species cross landowner boundaries and agency jurisdictions; controlling and eradicating these pests requires a multiagency collaboration.

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 SD1 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB1100 SD1.

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

Testimony of the Pest Control Board

**Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
and
Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2023
10:16 a.m.
Conference Room 211 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 1100, S.D. 1, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chair Dela Cruz, Chair Rhoads, 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 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; (4) require the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to license and train biosecurity inspectors to inspect imported plants and animals and requires inspection of various items transported interisland; (5) increase penalties for illegally transporting plants, animals, and microorganisms; (6) require the Department to establish government-industry agreements to detect and respond to unwanted organisms in Hawai'i; (7) authorize pest management plans to address, contain, or eradicate pests; (8) transfer the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department; (9) authorize the Department to adopt rules to establish and enforce the Plant Care Component Program; (10) authorize the Department to assess administrative penalties for the enforcement of the program; and (11) appropriate funds.

Committee Report SSCR652 states the Committees 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 over the appropriateness of the responsibility being given to the Board, particularly the training requirements of biosecurity inspectors, which is an area of expertise that is under the purview of the Department of Agriculture (DOA).

Historically, the Board has deferred to the DOA regarding pests as the agency with the authority to manage and that has significantly more knowledge and expertise in the inspection, identification and treatment of pests, as well as for diseases and infections. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 6:41:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It will move us forward working together and educating and eradicating the problem.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 8:25:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Hawaii has a unique biosphere and should be preserved for future generations.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 2:02:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee members,

My name is Marcia Kemble and I am writing today to offer the following COMMENTS on SB 1100. 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-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 9:57:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Mack Almasin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Biosecurity needs to be an issue that is given adequate funding and attention, and HDOA is the best department to move forward with increasing biosecurity measures.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 10:21:52 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Balthazar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With in the last 12 years we have had so many invasive plants and bugs come into Hawaii that is creating so much problems for agg . We need security like New Zealand with a lot more screaning. We have pests on one island that can't swim but they make their way to the other islands on flowers, plants, soil and vehicals .

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:52:06 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Molly Mamaril, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity. 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity (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 diversity and ecosystem services utilized by local industries (i.e.: tourism, fishery, aquaculture, etc.).
- 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.
 - HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.
- The Department of Agriculture (DOA) though well-intentioned has had difficulty 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Molly Mamaril

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:11:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 1100, which proposes renaming the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and significantly restructuring its responsibilities. While I support the need for robust biosecurity measures to protect Hawai‘i’s ecosystems and agriculture, this measure raises significant concerns about implementation, accountability, and resource allocation.

Transferring the Invasive Species Council and other biosecurity staff to the newly restructured Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, as proposed by SB 1100, is problematic for several reasons. 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 the HDOA risks limiting their ability to operate independently and nimbly, potentially slowing response times and reducing the impact of their work. Additionally, the 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 HDOA has a **poor track record** in effectively managing invasive species and enforcing existing regulations. Despite receiving generous funding for biosecurity programs in the past, the HDOA has struggled to allocate these resources efficiently to priority areas. Funds are **often underutilized or directed away from pressing invasive species issues.** Additionally, **the HDOA has 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. Furthermore, 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.

Moreover, both the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) and the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) have attempted to work with the HDOA but have found the department to be **unhelpful and uncommunicative** with coordination and information sharing. Incorporating the HISC into the HDOA will not improve this issue.

Rather than giving additional resources to the HDOA, which has demonstrated systemic shortcomings, **funds should be directed to organizations with proven success in invasive species management.** For instance, the Hawai'i Ant Lab and the Island Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) 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.

While biosecurity is a critical issue for Hawai'i, the approach of SB 1100 is flawed. The HDOA's history of mismanagement and inefficiency, combined with its poor record in collaborating with HISC and CGAPS, make this measure an unsuitable solution. I urge the committee to reconsider SB 1100 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:12:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donny Marez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Donny Marez, and I am a concerned Hawai'i resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity. 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity.
 - These funds also fill State and Federal resource gaps that control established invasive species populations from expanding and threatening native species diversity and ecosystem services utilized by local industries (i.e.: tourism, fishery, aquaculture, etc.).
- 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.
 - HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.
- 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Donny Marez

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:24:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul McDonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Lee, and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Richards, Inouye, Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my opposition to SB 1100, which proposes renaming the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity and significantly restructuring its responsibilities.

My concerns are as follows:

- **Scope of Responsibility:** Managing invasive species and biosecurity is too large a task for any single department. A coordinated approach across multiple departments, similar to the New Zealand model, is more effective.
- **Funding Success:** The Invasive Species Council and the Department of Land and Natural Resources have successfully raised millions in federal funds for biosecurity and invasive species management.
- **Department of Agriculture's Track Record:** The Department of Agriculture has struggled with filling critical positions, timely spending of funds for urgent projects, obtaining federal funds, retaining leadership, and coordinating with other invasive species and biosecurity organizations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1100.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:02:25 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose Bill SB 1100, which proposes reallocating critical funding from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to the Department of Agriculture.

Invasive species management is a crucial, time-sensitive issue that directly impacts our environment, economy, and public health. Over the years, the HISC and invasive species committees have played an essential role in combating the devastating effects of non-native species that disrupt our ecosystems. These committees work tirelessly to prevent the spread of harmful pests, protect native wildlife, and safeguard agriculture, forests, and waterways.

By diverting resources from these specialized committees, we risk undermining the progress that has been made in this area. The funds allocated to invasive species management support a wide range of effective programs such as monitoring, prevention, eradication, and restoration efforts.

Additionally, it is essential to recognize the value of diversifying our efforts rather than consolidating them. Relying on a single department, particularly one with a broader agricultural focus like the Department of Agriculture, is risky and shortsighted. Invasive species pose distinct challenges that require focused, specialized attention. By continuing to support the HISC, we ensure a multi-faceted, adaptable approach to this issue, one that considers all angles and threats.

The Department of Agriculture, while important, has historically shown limited effectiveness in addressing invasive species issues. Its focus on broader agricultural concerns makes it ill-equipped to handle the specialized and urgent needs of invasive species management. The reallocation of funds would dilute the resources available to invasive species committees, leading to diminished response capabilities and potentially disastrous long-term consequences.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jamie Miller

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:04:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Beachy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jane Beachy, and **I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity.** 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity (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 diversity and ecosystem services utilized by local industries (i.e.: tourism, fishery, aquaculture, etc.).
- 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.
 - HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.
- 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Jane Beachy

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:06:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing to express my general support for SB1100, which seeks to strengthen Hawaii’s biosecurity measures by renaming the Department of Agriculture as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, establishing transitional facilities, licensing biosecurity inspectors, and enhancing penalties for illegal transportation of plants, animals, and microorganisms. These measures are critical to protecting Hawaii’s unique ecosystems, agricultural industries, and public health from invasive species and other biosecurity threats.

However, I have significant concerns regarding the proposed transfer of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) from the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to the newly proposed Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. HISC’s effectiveness in addressing invasive species issues has been largely due to its inter-departmental collaboration and its ability to operate as a neutral, multi-agency entity. HISC brings together state, federal, and county governments, as well as private organizations and island invasive species committees, to coordinate efforts across jurisdictions and sectors. This collaborative approach has been instrumental in addressing invasive species challenges that span ecosystems, land uses, and agency mandates.

Transferring HISC to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity risks undermining its autonomy and its ability to function as a truly collaborative body. The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, while critical to biosecurity efforts, has a primary focus on agricultural interests. In contrast, HISC’s current placement under DLNR allows it to address invasive species issues across a broader spectrum, including conservation, natural resource management, and public health. Maintaining HISC’s current structure ensures that it can continue to operate as a neutral, cross-cutting entity that prioritizes the protection of Hawaii’s natural resources and ecosystems.

I respectfully urge the Committee to maintain HISC under its current status within DLNR. Doing so will preserve its ability to foster collaboration among diverse stakeholders and ensure that invasive species management remains a priority across all sectors, not just agriculture.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I appreciate the Committee’s dedication to protecting Hawaii’s environment and economy through robust biosecurity measures. I remain supportive of

the broader goals of SB1100_SD1 and look forward to seeing its positive impact on Hawaii's biosecurity efforts.

Mahalo,

Charles Chimera

Honokaa, Hawaii Island

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:09:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Magnacca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill as currently written. HISC is a critical partner with DLNR and HDOA is not equipped to handle its work. Perhaps it might be better to turn HDOA into a comprehensive biosecurity agency that includes HISC in the future, but that cannot be done with a simple bill; it requires a total transformation of the agency that must be done over years. HDOA is currently not even able to keep up with its current responsibilities. I urge you to reject this bill.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:09:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Melody Euaparadorn, and **I am a concerned Hawai'i Island resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity.** 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity (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 diversity and ecosystem services utilized by local industries (i.e.: tourism, fishery, aquaculture, etc.).
- 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. HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.
- 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:12:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I support the majority of the bill I have a handful of concerns about the movement of HISC to HDOA. Until HDOA has the capacity to lead a multi-agency effort, I think no change in administrative oversight is needed. The current council structure ensures that HDOA, DLNR, and HDOT all have a seat at the table.

I also wanted to share a few additional concerns. Invasive species is often spoken about as an issue for agricultural businesses, however there are many cases where management and oversight heavily emphasizes jurisdiction areas and skillsets that are relevant to DLNR. For example, octocoral in Pearl Harbor is an extreme risk to our fisheries. Detection, mangement, and rule making for bilge-water management is Division of Aquatic Management. There are a handful of invasive species established in wild-land environments, which is currently beyond the scope of the Department of Agriculture's work.

I've also seen bills that create many new jobs within the Department of Agriculture. I support these jobs but want to clearly state these positions are not redundant to the programming HISC regularly funds. HISC supported programs are flying in helicopters, rappelling off of cliffs, and camping in the mountains for multiple days in a concerted effort to detect and remove invasive species before they become widely established.

HISC programming is needed for these front-line responses. If the intent is to shift all of these positions to state jobs, please ask which positions will be trained to fulfill all of these important duties as we work to protect Hawai'i's unique environment and cultural resources.

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:13:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaya Honarvar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 10:15:58 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liat Portner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

My name is Liat Portner, Hale‘iwa, and I am writing to caution against the passing of SB1100 with the current language to move the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee from its current home within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the proposed new Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity. The HDOA has proven ineffective in administering funds in the past and has also demonstrated an inclination to give LOW PRIORITY to current, successful projects addressing biosecurity such as the Invasive Species Committees and the Hawai‘i Ant Lab. While consolidation theoretically supports more effective management, HDOA is focused on Agricultural priorities. HISC serves as an important facilitator of invasive species management and biosecurity at the intersection of urban and natural spaces, outside of Agricultural lands. Consolidation of biosecurity into one body needs to consider how to effectively manage different lines of biosecurity, whether at customs in protection of Ag land, in industry spaces, such as nurseries, at peoples private properties, whether in urban or rural areas, and in lands designated for conservation.

Thanks for you consideration,

Liat Portner

LATE



Testimony on SB 1100, SD1, Relating to Biosecurity

Committees on Ways and Means and Judiciary
February 19, 2025

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, and members of the committees,

The Hawai'i Harbors Users Group (HHUG) is writing to **respectfully oppose SB 1100, SD1**, 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." Ensuring clarity and appropriate levels of responsibility articulated in this measure would be important.

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.

LATE

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 8:17:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Ana Kastner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Mele Ana Kastner, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity. 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity (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 diversity and ecosystem services utilized by local industries (i.e.: tourism, fishery, aquaculture, etc.).
- 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.
- HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.

- 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Mele Ana Kastner

LATE

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am a concerned O'ahu resident writing **comments about SB1100 SD1**, relating to biosecurity. I am particularly concerned that this bill would move the Invasive Species Council from the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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) and others 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, prioritizing both aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity (ref. [HISC FY 24](#)).
- 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.
- HISC funds will be even more crucial for on-going responses to priority pests like little fire ants, coqui frogs, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and others should federal funds become unavailable given the threats and retraction of other federal funds under the current federal administration.

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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100 SD1.

Mahalo,
Kiana Otsuka

LATE

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:00:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francesca Koethe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Dela Cruz and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard and Moriwaki, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Francesca Koethe, and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing in opposition of SB1100, relating to biosecurity. 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) and others 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.
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- 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. The work HISC facilitates is too important.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB1100.

Mahalo,

Francesca Koethe

LATE

SB-1100-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:36:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2025 10:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kuo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of SB1101 as written. I am particularly concerned that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) responsibilities and resources will be moved from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture, thereby creating aquatic and terrestrial biosecurity management gaps within the State. Please consider revising the bill to ensure HISC remains under DLNR.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Julie Kuo