

MEDIA RELEASE

TO: Editors/News Directors
FROM: Rock Riggs, Office Manager 586-6830 or 779-2680

Legislative Informational Briefings on Climate Change and Invasive Species

HONOLULU – January 9, 2012 – The Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection will be holding joint informational briefings on invasive species and on climate change.

On Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 10 a.m. in the State Capitol’s room 325, the committees will be updated on invasive species threatening our environment and resources by various agencies that deal with combating invasive species. Participants will include: Coordinating Group on Alien Pet Species, Watershed Partnerships, Big Island Invasive Species Committee, Kaua’i Invasive Species Committee, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Moloka’i Invasive Species Committee, O’ahu Invasive Species Committee, state Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resources, state Department of Agriculture Plant Pest Control, state Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch and the Hawai’i Invasive Species Council.

“It is vital to our ecosystem that we receive the most updated information on invasive species so that we can better understand how we can prevent invasive species from entering Hawai’i and to combat those that get through in order to bring them under control,” said Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Chair Mike Gabbard.

On Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 1 p.m. in the State Capitol’s room 325, the committees will be briefed on climate change and its impact on Hawai’i. The following departments have been invited to provide information: UH School of Ocean and Earth

Science and Technology, UH Center for Island Climate Adaptation and Policy, NOAA Climate Services Division and State Office of Planning.

“Climate change affects our environment, our native species, our infrastructure and our very way of life. It’s crucial for us to learn the scope and ramifications of climate change in the foreseeable future so that we can plan to reduce and mitigate the resulting impacts,” said Senate Committee on Energy and Environment Chair Mike Gabbard.

No public testimony will be accepted at both informational briefings. For more information, contact Senator Gabbard's office at 586-6830.

###