

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  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO  
ACTING 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 House Committee on  
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024  
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2139 HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2139 House Draft 1 requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and appropriate funds for an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers. This bill requires the Department of Agriculture to inspect certain establishments that are at risk of spreading invasive pests and establishes correction and quarantine. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides comments on this measure.**

The Department recognizes the efforts of the introducers of this measure to address the spread of pests like little fire ants and coqui frogs in the state by establishing a placard system, like what the Department of Health uses for restaurants. The target group for this placard system is agricultural producers which in the measure includes "a farmer, cooperative association, or landowner..." The Department recommends narrowing the measure to focus on a nursery licensing program which several bills introduced this session focus on. The nursery trade is a known high-risk pathway for moving pests inter- and intra-island and currently the Department of Agriculture does not have a complete list of nursery operators in the State, only certified nurseries which are specific to exporting products out of Hawai'i.

A nursery licensing program would create a system for the Department of Agriculture to regulate and communicate on commodities being sold to the public via this high-risk pathway and better ensure product is free of major pests like coqui frogs and little fire ants.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

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

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2139, HD1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2139, HD1 relating to invasive species and requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers. The Department respectfully opposes this measure, recognizes the threat that invasive species pose, and offers comments.

The Department supports the intent to provide a more robust biosecurity program to battle invasive species through a placard program. The opposition is that we do not have sufficient capacity in both personnel and operations to implement this new program and simultaneously maintain port-of-entry inspection capabilities. The Department of Health (DOH) implemented a placard program in 2014 where 50 DOH



inspectors provided initial and follow-up inspections for 10,000 food establishments statewide. The Department considers resources to reinstate core inspection and biosecurity programming more critical to respond to the threat of invasive species.

This measure appears to require complaint-based inspections and this could penalize businesses who receive false complaints as the Department is required to charge \$50.00 per hour, plus mileage reimbursement, for any inspection conducted away from the port or department office that does not involve release at port of arrival, pursuant to L 2010, c 173, §13.

The Department has concerns regarding its ability to determine whether an “agricultural producer” would be covered under this program as the Department does not have the means of determining gross income thresholds, nor determining whether all activities were conducted within the state or not. Additionally, as “agricultural activities” are not defined it could be interpreted to include ranching, aquaculture, Ag tourism, or even value-added products utilizing processed Hawai‘i-grown commodities such as roasted Kona coffee, and it is not clear if these types of specific industries are intended to be covered under this program or not, as each of these industries have their own pest concerns.

The Department is also concerned about the definition of “invasive species” as there is no way to determine which species would subject a producer to receive a placard indicating non-compliance. As currently defined, species such as feral pigs or axis deer would appear to result in non-compliant status and it is unlikely that producers, particularly smaller ones would have the capability of removing or eradicating these species from their properties, particularly in areas that are heavily

infested. Additionally, species such as coqui frogs or little fire ants could fall outside the definition as these species generally do not have direct impacts to crops and are more of an environmental nuisance or impact human/animal health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Environmental Caucus of  
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

## Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Thursday, February 22, 2024, 1:00 pm

House Committee on Finance

HOUSE BILLS 2136 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

2139 –	“	INVASIVE SPECIES
2133 –	“	“
2546 –	“	“
2104 –	“	HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
2644 –	“	LITTLE FIRE ANTS
2758 –	“	AGRICULTURE
2619 --	“	AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Position: **Strong Support**

Me ke Aloha, Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the House Committee on Finance:

This raft of bills responds positively to the public's need for protection against invasive species in a variety of ways. Testimony in subject matter committees has been overwhelmingly supportive, and has included recommendations for amendment to tailor the bills to respective needs.

The Department of Agriculture has properly weighed in its general support but acknowledged its limitations of staffing and funding to provide adequate service to these initiatives. This is getting to be an old story. The Legislature has demonstrated its awareness of the severity and urgency of our plight in the face of import hazards and general agricultural dependence. The State has clamored for diversification of its economy for decades, and agriculture is both a natural cornucopia of opportunity as well as a hazard from invasive species.

It could not be a more critical time to invest accordingly in the capability to move the economy forward, to move agriculture forward in the broadest possible way, to clearly see the opportunities, necessities, and responsibilities for acting positively. Understanding that many competing claims are being made for limited revenues, the Standing Committee on Agriculture and Food Security of the Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party, in conjunction with its agricultural partners across the State, believes that this critical moment must be met with boldness and determination to correct oversights and weak assumptions of the past and to commit to creating a firmer foundation for our State economy, for public safety, and for food security.

We offer strong support and urge your concurrence in moving these bills forward to successful passage and full implementation by Session end.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee  
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



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

### Testimony with Comments on HB2139 HD1

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) supports the intent of **HB2139 HD1**, *Relating to Invasive Species*, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers.

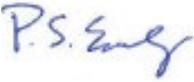
We appreciate the intent of this bill and we provide the following comments for consideration. First, this bill is focused on setting up a placard program for all agricultural producers. There were several bills introduced this session that focused more narrowly on the issue of nursery regulation via a nursery licensing program or placard program because plant nurseries are one sector of agricultural producers that are a higher-risk pathway for receiving and then spreading pests via plants and nursery products for sale directly to the public. Currently, HDOA does not have a list of all nurseries, plant sellers, or even agricultural producers. Many other agricultural producers such as farms and ranches may have infestations and we must work towards addressing these, but food processing requirements under the Food Safety Modernization Act and others minimize the chances of these pests spreading via commerce to the public.

As we have mentioned in previous committees on similar bills, the Hawaii Department of Health conducted several years of preparation work with food establishments before the enactment of the food safety placard program. This lead-in time, along with the fee structure, allowed the hiring of enough inspectors to provide education and bring all of the restaurants into compliance. The annual fees provide enough support to ensure immediate re-inspection and restoration of a green placard once violations are addressed. If a similar program for ag producers were enacted, HDOA would need the resources and at least a year to set up a program, followed by at least two years of outreach and working with agricultural producers to launch an effective program. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB2139 HD1.

Aloha,

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

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

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

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



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February 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 2139, HD1**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
1:00 PM

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

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau provides comments on HB 2139, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers and appropriates funds to mitigate the spread of the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle in the State.

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

As farmers and ranchers, we understand the need for updated policies and procedures to prevent the spread of these pest species. Our way of life and our livelihood is entirely dependent upon the ecological balance of our environment.

HFB has the following concerns.

- The bill indicates that it amends HRS Chapter 150A by adding a new section to be entitled "**Invasive species inspection placard program**". It appears that this new part is intended to be in addition to the current Chapter 150A which concerns the same issues. Does this new part apply only to agriculture-related businesses, but not to nearby State, federal, or other properties that may be infested with and spreading invasive species?

- Assuming the bill's requirements are only applicable to agriculture-related businesses such as farms and ranches, is it fair to target these entities if invasive pests are ubiquitous in the area, making it nearly impossible to prevent re-infestation, especially if there are no similar control requirements for the surrounding properties.
- Would large ranches, for example, those on hundreds of thousands of acres on Hawai'i Island that have been devastated by the two-lined spittlebug, be subject to these new laws even though there are currently no reasonable, cost-effective treatments available? Would having these pests on a farm or ranch be considered a violation?
- Because of the diversity and complexity of invasive species control, we are especially concerned about the proposed HRS Chapter 150A-(d) regarding the disclosure of the inspection report as a public document and the section requiring public placarding. These sections do not seem appropriate. Placarding could permanently stigmatize a business even if the producer is cooperative and corrects any deficiencies found upon inspection.

Department funding and staffing have long been insufficient to adequately prevent the entry and establishment of dangerous and damaging invasive species. This bill will require extensive resources and personnel to educate the public and producers, assist agricultural businesses with compliance, and conduct inspections and enforcement. Without significant funding, this measure will be impossible to implement.

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



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 20, 2024

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **Support of HB2139- HD1**

Aloha kākou,

Hawaii Food+ Policy is writing to express our strong support for HB2139 HD1, which addresses the critical issue of invasive species management in Hawaii. As an organization deeply committed to fostering community connections, preserving our unique heritage, and safeguarding our environment, we recognize the urgent need to combat invasive species and safeguard our state's agricultural industry and natural ecosystems.

HB2139 HD1 proposes the establishment of an invasive species inspection placard program by the Department of Agriculture, along with appropriations to mitigate the spread of specific invasive species, namely the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle. These provisions represent crucial steps towards enhancing the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species while informing the public about the latest inspection results for agricultural producers.

Here are key reasons why we believe HB2139 HD1 is essential and deserving of support from the House Committee on Finance:

1. **Economic Protection:** Invasive species pose a significant threat to Hawaii's agricultural industry, risking crop yields, infrastructure damage, and economic losses for farmers and agricultural businesses. By allocating funds to mitigate the spread of invasive species such as the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle, HB2139 HD1 helps protect the livelihoods of agricultural producers and ensures the resilience of our state's economy.

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



# Food+ Policy Internship 2024

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

2. **Fiscal Responsibility:** While HB2139 HD1 acknowledges the need to exceed the general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025, it provides clear justification for doing so. The appropriations contained within the bill are deemed necessary to serve the public interest and address the pressing needs related to invasive species management, demonstrating a prudent use of state resources.

3. **Environmental Conservation:** Invasive species pose a grave threat to Hawaii's unique biodiversity, ecosystems, and native species. By establishing an invasive species inspection placard program, HB2139 HD1 empowers agricultural producers and the public to actively participate in invasive species management efforts, thereby contributing to the conservation of our natural heritage for future generations.

4. **Public Health and Safety:** Certain invasive species, such as the little fire ant, can also pose risks to human health and well-being. By allocating funds to mitigate the spread of these invasive species, HB2139 HD1 helps protect communities from potential harm and ensures a safer living environment for all residents of Hawaii.

In conclusion, Hawaii Food+ Policy urges the House Committee on Finance to support HB2139 HD1 and its provisions for invasive species management and mitigation. By investing in proactive measures to control invasive species and protect our agricultural industry, environment, and communities, we can secure a more sustainable and resilient future for Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and considering our testimony,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 22, 2024 1:00 PM Conference Room 308

### In SUPPORT of:

**HB2104 HD1: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

**HB2131 HD1: RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG**

**HB2133 HD1: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

**HB2139 HD1: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

**HB2644 HD1: RELATING TO LITTLE FIRE ANTS**

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB2104 HD1, HB2131 HD1, HB2133 HD1, HB2139 HD1, and HB2644 HD1**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Hawai'i's history provides us with a host of lessons regarding the wide-ranging and potentially irreversible damage that invasive species can inflict on our islands and ways of life. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, impacting not just native habitat but also reducing aquifer recharge, increasing our vulnerability to floods and wildfires, and smothering our nearshore reefs and waters with runoff. Parasites and other pests have impacted local food production and increased the use of toxic pesticides on farms and in home gardens, risking both public health as well as threatening stream and nearshore species critical to our aquatic ecosystems. Invasive animals have also extirpated native species, continue to threaten others with outright extinction, and continue to undermine public health by acting as vectors for zoonotic diseases. Most recently, the spread of invasive pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, hala scale, two-lined spittlebug and others will require substantial and long-needed policies and investments over the long-term, to prevent additional and even greater impacts to our islands and our future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports the much needed policies and investments contemplated in these measures. More financial support is critical for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to fulfill its biosecurity mission; funding for targeted campaigns to address the little fire ant and two-lined spittlebug are critical to preventing the ecological, cultural, agricultural, public health, and economic impacts of these pests; financial support for businesses and organizations to engage in invasive species control and eradication will engage more of the community in the all-hands-on-deck fight to combat their spread; and



agricultural invasive species placards will encourage agricultural producers to proactively employ best management practices and other measures to prevent and address invasive species on agricultural lands.

The Sierra Club emphasizes that quarantine requirements will also be critical to filling a gap in our regulatory toolbox that has allowed the sale of infested plants and other communities – a gap that has likely contributed to the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetle on O‘ahu, and the ongoing spread of little fire ants across the islands. **The provisions of HB2758 HD2 would help to fill this regulatory gap and many others, and the Sierra Club accordingly strongly supports that measure as well.**

Much remains uncertain as we continue to reckon with the consequences of Hawai‘i’s longstanding failure to enact critical biosecurity protections. However, it is certain that much stronger action, including but not limited to the proposals in the aforementioned bills, will be necessary to mitigate or prevent the worst of these and other future impacts to our lives and that of our children and future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



February 22, 2024

Subject: Testimony to the Hawai'i State House of Representatives regarding House Bill 2139  
"Relating to Invasive Species"

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

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) in **strong support** of House Bill 2139 which would establish an invasive species inspection placard program for agricultural producers.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is the only current Department with the authority and ability to minimize invasive species spread throughout our islands through regulation. In order for HDOA to successfully regulate the inter-island and intra-island movement of injurious pests, the State must provide HDOA with the necessary tools to adequately address the threats of invasive species expanding through agricultural practices. A placard system is a simple and straightforward method to demonstrate to consumers that a nursery is in compliance with best management practices to limit the spread of pests related to the agricultural industry.

This piece of legislation would increase biosecurity statewide by providing HDOA with another tool to combat the spread and deleterious effects of high-priority pest species like little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) and coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*). This placard system would improve immensely HDOA's ability to protect the agricultural industry from invasive species that threaten crops and livelihoods, often the same injurious species that are spread by industry actions. A publicly visible system like the one outlined in this bill provides HDOA with a useful tool to catch detections of high impact invaders early and prevent the spread of this high-impact species with minimal effort. We have heard from countless community members and industry professionals who are frustrated that only a few bad actors can threaten agriculture and the way of life for residents and visitors alike. The placard system proposed in this bill would help to address those rightful concerns.

We very much appreciate your continuing leadership and support for invasive species management. For these reasons I lend OISC's full support behind HB 2139 and thank the Committee for providing our organization with the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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Nate Dube

Manager, O'ahu Invasive species Committee

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:28:02 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. A placard system for nurseries is essential as the movement of live plants and potting materials are at a high-risk of transporting invasive species with significant impacts on our daily lives.

This would be a huge benefit to the people of Hawai‘i once fully implemented. Please pass this bill. Mahalo nui for considering.

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:49:13 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to require the Department of Agriculture to establish and implement an invasive species inspection placard program to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species on the premises of an agricultural producer and inform the public of the most recent invasive species inspection results for agricultural producers. Importantly, this measure appropriates funds to mitigate the spread of the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle in the State.

Efforts towards stronger action to mitigate or prevent the worst impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations are critical.

I am particularly concerned to learn of the alarming proliferation of little fire ants (LFA) infestation sites on Oahu, including areas not far from my own community. Hawaii Island has already been suffering because of these extremely harmful invasive pests and the lack of action to effectively address them. LFA have had devastating impacts there, and not only to agriculture and the economy, but to the environment as a whole and to the quality of life of families in these communities. We need to eradicate LFA throughout the state, and not allow them to continue to spread. Failure to take timely action on LFA will only make it harder and more expensive to address this serious problem. Appropriating funds toward this effort is a must.

Please pass this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:32:14 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2139 HD1

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

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:28:34 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am in Strong Support of HB 2139 HD1. This is an important bill that requires immediate attention and action.

The placard system is a great idea. It is used for restaurants and is very effective. It should definitely help stop the spread, providing a notification system to enhance the control, removal, and eradication of invasive species. Most importantly it will inform the public who has a right to know.

The coconut rhinoceros beetle has wreaked havoc at the Mililani Agricultural Park destroying coconut palms and banana trees. Research shows they will also destroy papaya, mango flowers, sugar cane, pineapple, and taro. These are significant food crops to the Hawaiian Islands. The more the need to import food the greater the risks of bringing in more invasive pets. If these crops disappear, what will they destroy next?

I live on the Windward side where Little Fire Ants have begun to spread. While it has not been detected on our property so far, I believe immediate action is required to stop the spread, and hopefully it's not too late. We have mango, breadfruit, satsuma, guava, and banana trees and two dogs on our property. I dislike using anything except natural pesticides, and only when needed. We already have a variety of invasive species and plant diseases that can be difficult to control such as white flies, fruit flies, mealy bugs, other ant types and fungal infections. Little Fire Ants can cause blindness in pets.

Food sustainability is important to our island culture and our future. Controlling invasive pests is crucial to farmers and individuals who love to garden and grow different fruits and vegetables. The more invasive species the greater the need to use harmful pesticides.

Please provide support and pass Bill 2139 HD1.

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 4:09:01 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer V Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Finance Committee

Chair Kyle Yamashita,

I just wanted to ask you to eradicate what is possible of the miconia taking over in the Nanawale Forest Reserve. The purple leaved plants are very noticeable along the highway portion near Lava Tree State Park. They are growing incredibly fast and will spread where ever the wind and birds take them.

We are battling with our own invasives in Kapoho on the north edge of the 2018 lava flow. As I look out my office window, I see young albizias towering over the white limbs of the dead ohia. My husband and I use to go in together into that forest and kill invasive trees every 6 months or so. But lately we are getting too old and there are too many huge feral pigs in there. So we hire young hunter type men to do the work. I would apply for financial help if this bill were to pass.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Perry

**HB-2139-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:22:07 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support the invasive species placard program and the funding needed to implement it. Hawaii consumers need a way to tell if a business is Little Fire Ant and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle free.

Mahalo,  
Patrick Chee