

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1564

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 , 2025

RE: H.R. No. 126
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.R. No. 126 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE, COUNTIES, AND OTHER RELEVANT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE INCREASED AND SUSTAINED FUNDING TO THE INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES WITHIN THE PACIFIC COOPERATIVE STUDIES UNIT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to urge the counties, State, and other relevant agencies to:

- (1) Provide increased and sustained funding to the Invasive Species Committees within the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa; and
- (2) Provide sustained funding to the ISCs to strengthen their ability to combat the growing threat of invasive species and protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy; and
- (3) Direct funding toward expanding invasive species control programs to target priority species, increasing research and monitoring efforts to detect new invasions early, enhancing public outreach and education to raise awareness about preventing the spread of invasive



species, supporting interagency and community collaboration to improve response coordination and resource-sharing, and providing treatment options for residents and farmers impacted by these species, including grants for control efforts and the purchase of treatment supplies.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the University of Hawai'i System; Hawai'i Invasive Species Council; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Board of Water Supply; O'ahu Invasive Species Committee; Hawai'i Ant Lab; Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Control Species; and one individual.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Expanding the list of Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) to include Hawai'i Ant Lab; and
- (2) Amending the title in accordance with its amended purpose; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

Your Committee finds that invasive species pose one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's native flora and fauna, as well as severely affect Hawaii's agricultural sector and Hawaii's tourism industry, resulting in millions of dollars lost in revenue and increased costs for property owners, businesses, and agencies tasked with managing and mitigating these threats.

Your Committee further finds that the Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) have played a critical role in managing and preventing the spread of invasive species throughout the State and serve as an important gap filler by tailoring their target pest lists to be area-specific, thereby maximizing the effectiveness of limited resources. Despite this, the ISCs rely on limited funding to prevent the spread of invasive species, which could result in millions of dollars in damages and lost revenue for the State and residents, as well as long-term ecological and economic damage, if left unchecked.



Your Committee further finds that investing in invasive species management will protect Hawaii's environment and economy and enhance the State's resilience to climate change. This measure urges the counties, State, and other relevant agencies to provide sustained funding to the Invasive Species Committees within the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the ISCs to strengthen their ability to combat the growing threat of invasive species and protect Hawaii's ecosystems and economy, and to direct funding toward expanding invasive species control programs to target priority species.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 126, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 126, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
The Thirty-third Legislature

HSCR 1564

Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Bill/Resolution No.: HR 126	Committee Referral: AGR, FIN	Date: 3/21/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	✓			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	✓			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.				✓
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	✓			
6. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (6)	4			2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <i>Kirstin Joh</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				