

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42, HD1
ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY PLAN
THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY.

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards and Chang, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 42, HD1 encouraging each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county.

The Department agrees with the intent of this resolution that seeks to create more specificity in biosecurity plans by prioritizing the needs of each county. However, the Department notes that in April 2024, it entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawaii, which includes each of the island invasive species committees, for priority pests, including coconut rhinoceros beetles, coqui frogs, and little fire ants. One goal of the MOU is to create county-specific plans for the aforementioned pests and the partners are currently working together towards achieving this goal. Upon completion of the tasks defined in the MOU, the MOU can be the model for the creation and implementation of future county-specific biosecurity plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Friday, April 11, 2025
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42 HOUSE DRAFT 1
ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY
PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY**

House Concurrent Resolution 42 House Draft 1 encourages each county to establish an individual biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county; collaborate with other counties in developing its biosecurity plan; share its findings and biosecurity plan and collaborate with the State, including the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC); and that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairs of the Boards of Land and Natural Resources and Agriculture (Co-Chairpersons of the HISC); and Mayors and Council Chairs of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department is the administrator of the HISC, coordinates Department efforts to address invasive species on State lands and encourages Counties to develop individual biosecurity plans. The Department is a signatory of the High Priority Pest Memorandum of Understanding to address little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and coqui frogs, committing to working alongside our partners to control and, if possible, eradicate these invasive species. These individual county plans would create a new avenue to work with County partners.

It is imperative that all partners work together to protect Hawai'i's natural beauty on land and sea, protect human health, and ensure our economy works for all residents. This Resolution will help to develop a more comprehensive approach that includes funding and resource recommendations.

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

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

**Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Friday, April 11, 2025
2:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY, INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES, FUNDING**

House Concurrent Resolution 42 House Draft 1: encourages each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county; collaborate with other counties in developing its biosecurity plan; share its findings and biosecurity plan and collaborate with the State, including the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and Mayors and Council Chairs of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this Resolution.**

As stated in the Resolution, Invasive species have detrimental impacts to many facets of life here in Hawaii. Not only do invasive species threaten endangered species and crowd out native flora and fauna across the State, including protected areas, but invasive species can reduce agriculture production, suppress tourism, and threaten human health.

The Council supports the bill's requirement that each County develop its own biosecurity plan in cooperation with other counties and government agencies. The Council recently helped facilitate the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address the high-priority pests of Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Coqui frog. Fundamental to the MOU's success is the collaboration with all MOU partners because invasive species cross jurisdictional boundaries. Successful prevention, detection, control, and eradication of invasive species cannot happen with one entity acting alone. These County Plans will help all partner make progress together.

The Council also supports this bill's focus on developing County plans as each Hawaiian island has different problems caused by the invasive species found on its lands. The Council supports the inclusion of funding recommendations and resource needs in the County Plans to ensure proper management, control, and eradication efforts occur statewide and in local communities.

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



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Friday, April 11, 2025
2:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HCR 42 HD1

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards and Chang, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HCR 42 HD1**, which encourages each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the county's biosecurity needs.

As noted in HCR 42 HD1, invasive species have severely impacted each county, and each county faces unique biosecurity challenges. The creation of a plan for each county that establishes and prioritizes biosecurity needs for that county will assist counties and the State in targeting resources to the highest impact programs. We also note that the statewide Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan is a 10-year plan ending in 2027, making the need for additional biosecurity planning even more urgent.

We are grateful that the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems added language to HCR 42 HD1 to expand each county's biosecurity plan to include proposed legislative changes at both the State and county levels to promote the county's biosecurity. Currently, counties are completely preempted by State law from banning or regulating the movement of noxious weeds, pests, or other invasive species or material infested with a pest or invasive species.¹ Each county's plan may now identify alternatives to address this gap in a county's ability to promote its biosecurity.

¹ See *Atay v. Cty. of Maui*, 842 F.3d 688, 709 (9th Cir. 2016); *Syngenta Seeds, Inc. v. Cty. of Kauai*, 664 F. App'x 669, 673 (9th Cir. 2016); and *Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, No. CIV. 14-00267 BMK, 2014 WL 6685817, (D. Haw. Nov. 26, 2014), *aff'd sub nom. Hawai'i Papaya Indus. Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, 666 F. App'x 631 (9th Cir. 2016)

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HCR 42 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

HCR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/8/2025 5:28:01 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This makes total sense as there are different emerging concerns for each island and county.

LATE

HCR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2025 2:02:09 PM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Sprecher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Wakai, Chari Gabbard and EIG and AEN Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HCR42.

Considering the damaging effects of invasive species on Hawaii's unique biodiversity, and the challenges unique to each county, creating and implementing localized biosecurity plans will be beneficial to Hawaii. Monitoring for and protecting against invasive pests and pathogens, helps to protect our agricultural land, our forested land, our ranch and pasture lands, and the economies tied to all three. Protecting our islands and resources against biosecurity threats helps to promote a stronger, safer, more productive and more self-sustaining Hawaii for today and tomorrow. For these reasons the HFIA hopes that you will support HCR42

Irene Sprecher,

President of the Hawaii Forest Industry Association

HCR-42-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/11/2025 9:34:43 AM

Testimony for EIG on 4/11/2025 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	Testifying for CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Refer to live video testimony.