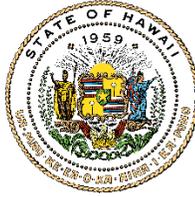


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
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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  
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, March 21, 2025  
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 42  
HOUSE RESOLUTION 36  
ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY  
PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY

House Concurrent Resolution 42 and companion House Resolution 36 encourage 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 is working 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, 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**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2025  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 42 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.

