

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Monday, February 25, 2019
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 871
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 871 proposes to appropriate funds for positions at the Hawaii Island Branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to reduce the problem of invasive species on Hawaii Island. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes invasive species as a major problem for the protection of natural resources, as well as for agricultural production, tourism, and human health. The Department notes that the administration request includes 10 positions for invasive species mitigation statewide at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife as a first step toward reaching a goal of 45 positions by 2027, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. This administration request includes two positions for Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 25, 2019
10:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 871
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 871, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions to control invasive species, such as miconia, in Hawai'i County. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

Funding for control of invasive species, such as miconia, is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts, and staffing is a critical component of the plan. However, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is only one of the many partnering agencies included in the Interagency Biosecurity Plan that are charged with protecting Hawai'i. Each partnering agency has a critical role in ensuring that the action items in the plan can be implemented. The Department of Agriculture also plays a critical role in the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species throughout the State and including funding for Department of Agriculture staff would enable a more comprehensive implementation of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-871

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:17:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



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February 25, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 871
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 211
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 871, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Hawaii branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawaii island to address invasive plants and animals.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Hawaii County. We respectfully request that all Counties receive funding to combat invasive species.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

S.B. 871

Relating to Invasive Species

Public Decision-Making
Monday, February 25, 2019
10:30 A.M., Agenda Item #1
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

Sharon Suzuki
President, Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities
Hawaiian Electric Light Company, Inc. & Maui Electric Company, Limited

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith Agaran and Members of the Committees,

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company Inc. and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company, Limited and Hawai'i Electric Light Company, Inc. ("the Hawaiian Electric Companies") in support of S.B. 871, Relating to Invasive Species.

S.B. 871 provides funds to establish invasive technician positions for the Department of Land and Natural Resources' Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hawai'i county to control invasive species, from negatively impacting the environment and economy.

Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 871 for the following reasons:

- Albizia trees are an invasive species, and a hazard to public safety and critical infrastructure.
- Strands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow on many public and private properties. Tropical Storm Iselle brought down many Albizia trees, blocked roadways, and caused millions of dollars in damage

to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.

- The efforts to mitigate their damage, like many other invasive species has become protracted and expensive.
- DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Hawaii Branch) and Big Island Invasive Species Council have made significant efforts in controlling invasive species on Hawaii Island.
- This bill will help fund five invasive species technician positions for the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife- Hawaii Branch. The invasive species technician's will help to control invasive plants and animals from negatively impacting the Hawaii island community.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 871 which will help further efforts to control or eradicate invasive species. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.



The Nature Conservancy
Hawai'i Program
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel(808) 537-4508
Fax(808) 545-2019
nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting SB871 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2019, 10:30AM, Room 211

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports SB871 that would provide an **additional \$500,000** to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to hire additional staff to address invasive pests on Hawai'i island.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive.

We also hope that the funding and staffing proposed in this bill will continue to be additive. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. Beyond this bill's additive funding, we encourage the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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SB-871

Submitted on: 2/22/2019 1:26:09 PM

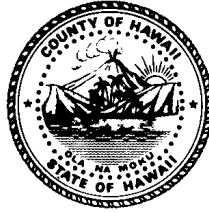
Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katharine T. Cannon-Eger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Island has been ground zero for several invasive species. Hawaii Island also has the largest amount of agricultural land. This island needs help to battle these threats to crops and dangers to farm personnel.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 25, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 871 Relating to Invasive Species

In the past two years, the Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top priority that deserved everyone's attention. Our best efforts at the county level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that the State, counties, Feds, and private sector work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems. This Legislature has really stood up, and hopefully will do even more this year.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawai'i County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, and probably others. But all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." As a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own. We need as much assistance from the State as you can offer.

While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting invasives, and therefore urge passage of SB 871 in some form. Please provide as much money as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, include positions and funding in the Senate version of the State budget, and let's move forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 1:14:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB871. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must take measures to do what we can to limit the entry of non-native species to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:16:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:40:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirstin Kahaloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu

LATE

Testimony by Conservation Council for Hawai'i
SB871 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, February 25, 2019 10:30 AM, Rm. 211

Chari Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Aragon, and members of the committee:

Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH) supports SB871 that would provide an additional \$500,000 to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to hire support staff to support invasive species management.

Invasive species has been a priority campaign for CCH for nearly 20-years. Invasive species pose a serious, if not the greatest threat to Hawai'i's natural resources, agriculture, the economy, and general health and well being of our people. CCH will continue to support any effort to address this issue.

However, CCH remains concerned that funding efforts to support invasive species initiatives continue to be done piece-meal often with interagency partners competing for the same funding resource. Case in point, emergency funding in 2007 for coqui control came from existing invasive species resources to the detriment of the State invasive species committee's and interrupting the efforts of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council. CCH encourages funding efforts to be additive to at meet the States bio-security plan to fund 45 positions by 2027 if not sooner. Though CCH is fully aware that funding for invasive species management and biosecurity is woefully inadequate given the scope of the problem, we will continue support any and all efforts to address this imperative issue. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan brings attention to this issue, and CCH encourages the legislature and administration to ensure that current and future funding be applied effectively across all islands to address the full gamut of problems with a goal to avoid new one's.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this

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Treasurer: Anne Huggins Walton | Directors: Robin Kaye, Steven L Montgomery National

Wildlife Representatives: Les Welsh, Koa Kaulukukui-Barbee

Interim Executive Director: Julie Leialoha | Operations Manager: Jonnetta Peters



LATE

SB-871

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:39:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: