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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 29, 2016
9:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1050 SD1
RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1050 SD1. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to perform specified tasks to address the interisland spread of invasive species. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget and offers comments..

The prevention of the introduction of invasive species into the State as well as controlling, mitigating, and eradicating where possible, existing invasive species populations are some of the main responsibilities of the Department. As such, the Department would like to point out that many of the mandates within the bill such as: development of an import database, development of quarantine treatments, carrying out risk assessments, and providing chemicals and equipment to assist growers are all being currently carried out by the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

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

**Tuesday, March 29, 2016
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1050, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1050, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to undertake a variety of actions intended to minimize the interisland movement of invasive species and to control invasive species on agricultural lands. This measure would also require the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to direct the University of Hawaii's Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) to prioritize work on non-agricultural lands, with a specific focus on areas around Hilo airport and harbor and on creating buffer zones between adjacent conservation and agricultural lands in Hawaii County. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments and concerns.**

With regard to language in SECTION 1 mandating that the HISC should "direct the invasive species committees to focus their efforts on... non-agricultural areas", the Department notes that the HISC is an interagency coordinating body housed within the Department and does not direct the actions of the ISCs, which are separate entities that are managed by the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit at the University of Hawaii. The Department suggests removing this language.

With regard to language in SECTION 3 mandating that the HISC should "work through existing contracts," the Department notes that the HISC does not have any existing contracts. The HISC as a coordinating body approves an interagency budget that is administered by the Department and is made available to HISC agencies and partners through journal vouchers or funding agreements for expenditure reimbursements. HISC approves a budget annually, thus any new mandates provided by this measure would necessitate new funding agreements using the general funds identified in SECTION 8. The Department suggests amending the language in SECTION 3 by replacing "work through existing contracts" with "request proposals."

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

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

With regard to the appropriation in SECTION 8, the Department notes that there are thousands of acres of agricultural production lands on Hawaii Island and that each farm or nursery is likely treating their products for multiple invasive species and that coordinating treatment on conservation lands abutting agricultural lands will likely require substantial resources. The Department defers to any estimates from the University of Hawaii's Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) on the amount of funding needed to address the various tasks outlined in this measure. The Department suggests that the HISC implement a model for using these funds wherein agricultural producers partner with BIISC or another pest control operator to develop proposals that 1) document pests and pest control methods being utilized on a given parcel of agricultural land, and 2) request funds to support coordinated control of the same pests on the surrounding conservation lands. The Department suggests that the appropriation in SECTION 8 be provided in addition to, and not negatively impact, other appropriations for the HISC.

With regard to directions provided to the HDOA in SECTION 2, the Department defers to the HDOA on the fiscal requirements and feasibility of implementing the specific actions described in this section of the measure.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at 9:30 a.m.

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1050 SD1 – RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments with concerns on HB 1050 SD1, which Mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to perform specified tasks to address the interisland spread of invasive species, requires annual reports, and appropriates funds for these purposes.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is an interagency coordinating council consisting of five State department directors and the President of the University of Hawai'i. As an interagency council, the HISC is housed administratively within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, but does not directly employ staff who can be tasked with mitigation efforts and treatment of state and private land to combat invasive species. Rather, HISC receives appropriated funds, and provides these funds to third parties to promote and carry out invasive species mitigation efforts via an annual competitive grants process.

HISC was created as an interdepartmental collaboration intended to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments and federal agencies. Without a permanent staff or the authority or organizational structure of a State department, it would be difficult for HISC to respond to a legislative mandate to conduct specific mitigation efforts. HISC could certainly be required to solicit proposals to strengthen the mitigation efforts of State agencies, but does not have staff or authority to implement such measures directly.

A further concern with HB 1050 is that very specific actions are mandated, such as the creation of buffer zones around agricultural lands, airports and ports, but the targets of these actions are not named. Plant pests, public health pests, plant diseases, and invasive weeds all require different control actions, and pose different threats in different situations. Coffee berry borer, for example is found on coffee farms, but not in natural areas, so insecticidal spraying to create buffer zones would not necessarily be a productive approach. Weeds such as miconia are a threat to forests, but not necessarily to ports. The very broad goals of HB 1050 SD1 seem to be at odds with the very specific actions required by the language of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments with concerns on HB 1050 SD1.