

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 4, 2016
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1596
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1596. This bill would add a new section to Chapter 194 to create an invasive species special fund to allow for a timely and rapid response to a newly detected species. The department supports this measure.

A rapid response to a new detection of an invasive species is critical to contain and eradicate it before it has a chance to spread. There is currently no mechanism in place for rapid access to funds to adequately address a new invasive species detection. This bill would create a special fund for this purpose which the Hawaii Invasive Species Council would be able to tap after the Governor declared an invasive species emergency. This mechanism for access to emergency funds will enhance the council's ability to respond. The other critical detriment to an effective response is having a sufficient number of trained people to do the work. It is not clear if these funds can be used to hire people to conduct the work under the direction of the lead agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, February 4, 2016
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1596
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1596 proposes to create an invasive species rapid response special fund and would appropriate an unspecified amount into this fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding.**

The Department manages a variety of programs that deal with invasive species threats, including those within Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserves, State Parks, and marine areas. The Department is also the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which manages an annual grants program to support projects that fill gaps between agency mandates relating to invasive species. The Department recognizes that funding for these programs and projects is typically determined at the start of the fiscal year. No reserve funding to deal with invasive species emergencies that arise over the course of the fiscal year is appropriated by the legislature, nor is operational funding held in reserve by the Department due to the scarcity of available funds relative to the need of existing programs and projects. The creation of a special fund to be used specifically for rapid response during invasive species emergencies would enhance the State's ability to quickly and effectively respond to unforeseen needs.

The Department supports the creation of a rapid response fund provided that appropriations into this fund do not impact other appropriations to the HISC for its regular grant program, other priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget, or any existing Department appropriated funding.

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

TESTIMONY BY WESLEY K. MACHIDA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1596

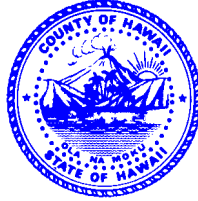
February 4, 2016

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill No. 1596 establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Special Fund which will be funded by the Legislature for the purpose of mitigating or eradicating newly detected invasive species threats in the State, and sets forth procedures for emergency declarations and expenditure of the special funds. The bill appropriates an unspecified sum of general funds for FY 17 for deposit into the new fund.

While the Department of Budget and Finance does not take any position on the policy of the Invasive Species Rapid Response Special Fund, as a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special or revolving fund which does not meet the requirements of Sections 37-52.3 and 37-52.4, HRS. Special or revolving funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to House Bill No. 1596, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed fund would be self-sustaining.

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

TESIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1596

A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Honorable Chair Tsuji,
Vice Chair Onishi,
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1596, which establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund with the DLNR, establishes procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures and appropriates money.

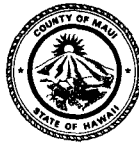
I agree that it is imperative to create a mechanism to quickly respond to newly detected invasive species and ask that you vote to approve this bill.

Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Don S. Guzman

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Michael P. Victorino

Councilmembers
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Don Couch
Stacy Crivello
Riki Hokama

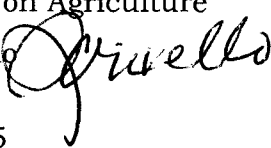


Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 2, 2016

TO: Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Stacy Helm Crivello 
Councilmember

DATE: February 04, 2015

SUBJECT: **HB 1596, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify **in support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to establish the invasive species rapid response special fund within DLNR and to establish procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Maui is impacted by invasive species. The feral pig ravaged the ground leaving it bare allowing the ornamental pampas grass to spring up and take hold, damaging and threatening our East Maui watershed. The ornamental miconia plant, introduced in the 1960s is extremely invasive and grows wildly today on Maui and the Big Island, threatening our fragile ecosystem. The coqui frog population on the Big Island is so widespread that eradication is all but impossible. On Maui however there is still hope.
2. Vigilance, diligence and funding are the key. Identification of hotspots as well as new threats are essential and the ability to respond to the problem immediately are the difference in chasing or getting ahead of the problem. This is a no-brainer.
3. The establishment of a rapid response special fund is a leg up in the war on invasive species, and make no mistake this is a war.

For the foregoing reasons, I support this measure.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1596
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President 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 interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of HB 1596 which establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund within DLNR.

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, 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 appreciates the intent of this measure and the many other bills that seek to address invasive species. However, we respectfully request that the Legislature fund the DOA's Biosecurity Program which is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture
Hearing: Thursday, February 4, 2016 8:30 am
Conference Room 312

In Support of HB 1596 Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1596, which establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, establishes procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures, and appropriates moneys. We support HB 1596 provided the funding is additive and does not come at the expense of other DLNR and Department of Agriculture programs to prevent invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control invasive species already established here.

Invasive species negatively affect the environment, the economy, and our quality of life. They threaten human health and native wildlife. They harm and they kill. We need to spend more money preventing invasive species from taking over our islands. There has never been enough money to do so, and we see the results of that "penny-wise, but pound-foolish" practice of underfunding invasive species control. We can pay now or pay much more later when invasive species spread.

We urge the legislature to appropriate a total of at least \$50,000,000 annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species."

Here is a photograph of the brown treesnake threatening a young child on Guam. Please support HB 1596 and other funding mechanisms for invasive species programs.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka

Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton

Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Brown tree snake.

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair

House Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1596, Relating to Invasive Species

HEARING: Thursday, February 4, 2016 at 8:30 a.m.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,800 members. HAR **supports the intent** on H.B. 1596 which establishes the invasive species rapid response special fund within DLNR and establishes procedures for emergency declarations and expenditures.

While HAR takes no position on the creation on a new special fund, HAR believes that programs and efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents. The spread of invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to the economy, tourism, and real estate industries.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
February 4, 2016
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1596

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1596, Relating to Invasive Species.**

The molasses spill in Honolulu Harbor was quickly addressed using funding from the Hawai'i Department of Health's Environmental Response Revolving Fund (HRS 128D-2). Recent events have highlighted the need for such a fund for invasive species, including the 2013 discovery that Little Fire Ants were present in some hapu`u logs being sold at garden shops and nurseries on several islands, and the current emergency of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

Of particular interest is proposed Section (b), which would, "*allow the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to assess an emerging invasive species situation and submit a request to the Governor to declare an invasive species emergency.*" The Hawai'i State Plant Health Emergency Response Plan (2013) details the existing authority of agency heads OR the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to declare an emergency (see page 26-27, <http://www.cgaps.org/wp-content/uploads/Hawaii-Plant-Health-Emergency-Response-Plan-Appendices-12-30-2013.pdf>), and further, to request the activation of Federal/State Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF 11) for Agricultural and Natural Resource emergencies. The Governor's emergency declaration and activation of ESF 11 engages county and state Emergency Management and allows a framework for rapid procurement and other benefits. Although agencies have the authority to request that the Governor declare an invasive species emergency, for whatever reason, this tool has not been utilized at the state level in a number of decades. This legislation could help clarify the legal tools available to agencies, and provide funds necessary for rapid response to invasive species emergencies. For these reasons, we ask for your support of HB 1596. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



LATE

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard Onishi, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 04, 2016
8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act
HB1596 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **STRONGLY OPPOSES** House **Bill 1596**.

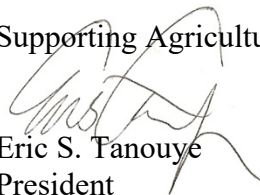
The bill undermines the current process in place for funding and emergency rules, but without scientific evidence and providing unregulated mitigation to an invasive species threat. What is really needed is more resources directly to the mandated agencies, i.e. DOH, Vector Control; DOA Plant Pest Control; and DOA Plant Quarantine. Secondly, providing police power to HISC to enter any place to destroy any invasive species that is declared an emergency, without any regard to the person's livelihood, personnel property, privacy and other constitutional rights is wrong. HISC has no regulatory or enforcement power, one would think this action would be considered unconstitutional, especially if the decision for the emergency rule is not scientifically based. As you track previous legislation supported by HISC, you will find their methods are draconian and therefore, will HISC or its participants, and / or the state be liable for the loss of crops, personal property, or emotional distress caused by such an action.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for your consideration of our comments to HB1596. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

LATE

TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING HB 1596
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2016, 8:30 AM, ROOM 312

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee, a project of the University of Hawaii, is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

Dear Chair Tsuji and Vice Chair Onishi:

BIISC strongly supports this measure to create a rapid response fund to ensure that this state is positioned to act when new invasive species threats arrive. Too often, a response is delayed while underfunded government employees and university researchers work double duty trying to raise awareness and funding to address new and significant threats. Numerous biologists, entomologists, ecologists, foresters, and natural resource managers have virtually abandoned their normal duties at some point during the past few years to address a new threat. Many have begun traveling across the state, petitioning county, state, and federal law makers, speaking at community meetings and public venues, desperately making their case for funds to address a new (or long neglected) invasive species threat. Matching funds from federal and private sources are sometimes lost due to a lack of secured state funding. When help arrives, it may be too little, too late, and these same dedicated public servants face a critical public that believes they could have done, should have done, more.

As our state's model for filling the gaps in agency capacity for invasive species prevention and response, the Invasive Species Committees of Hawaii are well aware of the need. The recently released report on invasive species management by the Legislative Research Bureau recommends that this legislature "provide resources and support for priority actions necessary in the fight against invasive species." The HISC strategic plan, in turn, identifies a source of immediately available and dedicated funds for HISC coordinated rapid response actions as a necessity. Paired with a strong legislative mandate for a coordinated biosecurity program, this appropriation is one of the most effective actions the legislature can take *right now* to reduce the costly impact of future invasions.

Coffee berry borer, coqui frogs, and little fire ants, are just a few headliner examples of invasions that had a narrow window of opportunity for action that was missed due to lack of funding, coordination, and personnel. Reviews of state responses to tropical disease outbreaks (2001, and currently) note the crucial role of a well-organized and *rapid* response. HISC-funded rapid response teams, made up of and supported by agency partners, have eliminated at least 30 rapid response target species from individual islands, and others from the entire state. These are pests that will cost the state \$0 this year. Past successes prove that a rapidly funded, well-staffed, rapid response program is an effective second line of defense to avert the high cost of long term management and control of high impact pests.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 04, 2016 6:01 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1596 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1596

Submitted on: 2/4/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments: Ag Theft continues to be a huge problem for farmers and ranchers. Even when we do catch perpetrators, they are rarely prosecuted, and even when they are, rarely convicted. This bill will go a long way in helping us fight ag theft.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 2:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: robert.carroll@mauicounty.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1596 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM

HB1596

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
robert carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure is extremely important to deal with the sudden, unexpected occurrence of invasive species. I support HB 1596. Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:12 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1596 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1596

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: starmer@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1596 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB1596

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaelan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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