

February 6, 2015

**The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

**The Honorable Laura Thielen, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Water and Land

**The Honorable Russell Ruderman, Chair**  
Committee on Agriculture  
State Capitol, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

LATE

**RE: S.B. 1046, Relating to Invasive Species**

**HEARING: Friday, February 6, 2015, at 2:45 p.m.**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Thielen, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committees:

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 8,400 members. HAR **supports the intent** of S.B. 1046 which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture to address issues relating to invasive species.

HAR believes that programs to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents. Additionally, invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to homeowners and the real estate industry; for example, coqui frogs.

Additionally, HAR would note that the general fund is the ideal source of funding for this measure, as opposed to the Conveyance Tax.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 10:21 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Cc:** morris.haole@mauicounty.us  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1046 on Feb 6, 2015 14:45PM

**SB1046**

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for ENE/WTL/AGL on Feb 6, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Carroll	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This measure is crucial to control and eventually eradicate invasive species, especially Fire ants in East Maui.

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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**LATE**

**gabbard2 - Donna**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 06, 2015 11:56 AM  
**To:** ENETestimony  
**Cc:** lauale19@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB1046 on Feb 6, 2015 14:45PM  
**Attachments:** SB1046\_20150206.docx

**SB1046**

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for ENE/WTL/AGL on Feb 6, 2015 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

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

**Comments:**

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Aloha,

I am a professional working to protect Hawai'i's natural resources through research and experience in the prevention and early detection of invasive plants. I have been working at this in Hawai'i since 2006. I have firsthand knowledge of the challenges of finding these invasive species early enough in their stage of invasion where control is even feasible, given the level of funding currently, and in recent years. I am also intimately familiar with the costs and challenges associated with controlling them once invasive species are found. I support this level of funding, and hope that this level will be able to increase in the future. Acknowledging the findings of the economic costs of invasive species referenced in the bill, as well as my firsthand knowledge invasive species management in Hawai'i, we need to work towards reaching at least the 50,000,000 annual dollars mark, in order to more appropriately address this serious issue. Invasive species are not just a threat to our internationally treasured natural resources, but also to our own health, well being, and way of life. I appreciate the opportunity for input.

Alex Lau



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**S.B. NO. 1046**  
**Relating to Invasive Species**  
ENE/WTL/AGL, WAM Hearing on 02-06-15 2:45 pm in Rm. 224

**Support S.B 1046**

LATE

My name is Ellen Watson. I am the owner of Common Scents Canine Hawaii, a company that specifically trains Scent Detection Dogs to find invasive species pests, Coqui Frog, Coqui Frog Eggs, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, Larvae, Pupae and Eggs, and Little Fire Ants. We are a locally owned and operated company headquartered in Honolulu.

Our objective is to find, identify, locations of invasive species pests in our State, in all areas impacted by invasive species pests, including agricultural lands and businesses, nurseries, shipping ports, airports and air cargo transport, air cargo packages leaving and arriving our State, airlines, cruise ships, hotel/resorts and other entry/exit points where invasive species pests may transported into or out of our State.

Further, we provide post-clearance verification for areas treated for eradication of invasive species pests.

Scent Detector Dogs are a valuable tool to assist the HDOA and other entities/agencies/organizations in the fight against the introduction, spread and control/eradication of invasive pests, state-wide.

In the body of this Legislation it states that the spread of invasive species to date is an ongoing threat to the State of Hawaii, its native environment, economy and the State's overall well-being. We agree. The Bill explicitly articulates concerns regarding the potential future invasion of Brown Tree Snakes (BTS) and Red Imported Fire Ants (RIFA), and ramifications should they become established here.

The Bill clearly expresses the need for viable plans/strategies to prevent introduction of invasive pests, and rapid response measures to control/eradicate/mitigate established invasive pests.

As such, this Legislation assigns responsibilities to DLNR (as administrative department), to expend the monies, on projects undertaken in accordance with HISC wishes and what they see fit to do.

Further, in Section 3 of this Legislation authorizes and delegates responsibility to HDOA for implementing Rapid Response Projects to include: Control, Eradication of Existing Infestations and Prevent Inter-Island Movement of Pests.

If past behavior/outcomes are predictors of current behavior/outcomes and future behavior/outcomes, I'm respectfully compelled to opine that these three entities, (DLNR, HISC & HDOA) are in some respects akin to the "three musketeers" or maybe even the "three stooges". Please understand; I mean no disrespect for these agencies or persons working for these entities, but want to paint a verbal picture of the angst between status quo vs. effectiveness, that we all can understand, and that the tax payers deserve.

I profoundly care about Hawaii and its Aina. I'm am highly motivated to ferret-out and embrace excellent policy, realize and accept effective initiatives/programs, and hold to high standards of expectations and outcome evaluation. I am certain, Senators, Representatives and Government Executives want nothing less. The Public deserves nothing less.

Therefore: Please before passing out appropriations to the same ole' folks, and the reconfigured groups comprised of the same ole' folks; let's develop precise yet achievable evaluation criteria by which to measure the success or failure of these departments, agencies and entities, who ask for our trust in them to "carry the ball" and "win the game", against the invasion of invasive species pests.

Finally, we agree with Bill 1046 and suggested appropriation slated for the 2002 update of LRB findings and report; "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species.