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TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING, WITH AMENDMENTS, SB2448 SD-1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, March 01, 2016 1:30 p.m. Room 211

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee 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.

BIISC SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE:

SB 2448 authorizes the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, a state cabinet level council, to:

1. Proceed with adopting administrative rules to list harmful invasive species. The HISC and its partner projects, including the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, is exceedingly cautious in declaring introduced species to be invasive. The primary process for listing invasive plants is based on the objective, statistically proven Hawaii Weed Risk Assessment (www.plantpono.org/hpwra) developed by Dr. Curtis Daehler of UH Manoa, and Dr. Julie Denslow of the US Forest Service, in collaboration with international researchers. The HPWRA is more than 90% accurate in identifying invasive plants, based on 49 characteristics, and it can do this before these plants arrive in Hawaii and become costly problems. Along with other objective factors, HPWRA provides scientifically based, predictable criteria on which to base listing decisions. Partners including the Hawaii County Department of Public Works, and private community/homeowners' associations have asked for a reliable list that can be used to guide public planting and plant maintenance decisions, for environmental health and public safety. It is important to note the *very small percentage* of introduced plants that are considered "invasive." The use of HPWRA to develop a "Do Not Plant" list was even endorsed by the Hawaii Island Landscapers Association (HILA) to develop the Plant Pono Nursery Endorsement for the Big Island. Please authorize, and demand, that the HISC proceeds with fulfilling this aspect of its mandate.

We oppose the addition of the caveat for domesticated pets, due to lack of clear definition.

2. Authorize an agent of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to enter affected premises of private property, under specific conditions, to control or eradicate invasive species. This authority is desperately needed to provide relief to Hawaii residents who live alongside unmanaged properties that have become breeding grounds for the worst invasive pests, including mosquitoes, little fire ants, coqui frogs, and albizia trees. The Director of the CDC cited this issue in his interim report as one of the factors slowing the state response to Dengue Fever. Access is often an issue with absentee landowners who may reside on the mainland or in another country, and is one of the most time-consuming aspects of the work of the island-based Invasive Species Committees. Our work relies entirely on the voluntary compliance of residents to allow our crews to enter property to eradicate these pests. The lack of access can derail an otherwise successful rapid response to new invasive pests. If the landowner cannot be reached, or does not want to participate, the entire district, island, and state can be subjected to a new invasive pest. Recent difficulties with landowner access in the Maui little fire ant response, highlights the problem—it is beyond reason that a single landowner can deny access to control a pest like LFA, and put forests, recreational areas, residents, and agricultural operations at



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risk island-wide. This authority would be similar in effect to the authority of wildlife enforcement officers who may enter property under strict conditions to assist neglected and abused animals observed in clear view from public areas.

3. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife for use by the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for the immediate coordinated management of albizia trees on the island of Hawaii. This appropriation will fund the implementation of the Albizia Hazard Mitigation Plan developed by a multi-agency Albizia Task Force in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Iselle. Funds are intended for the removal of albizia along major county and state highways, and along the borders of state forest reserves, where hazardous albizia trees threaten public infrastructure. Funds will begin to match the more than \$7 Million spent by HELCO in the last year alone. These funds are requested in addition to the routine budgets of state and county agencies tasked with maintaining public rights-of-way, which previously were not able to keep pace with the rapid growth of this invasive species. Under the Albizia Mitigation Plan, a small portion (less than 10%) of these funds are needed to support BIISC albizia control operations within the rights of way, primarily preventing re-seeding and re-growth of fallen trees, while the majority would be dispersed by DLNR on behalf of the Albizia Task Force members, through direct contracts to arborists removing the most immediate albizia hazards to rights of way.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: basil@kauaibeach.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2448 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 7:52:46 AM

SB2448

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Basil Scott	Kauai Community Cat Project	Oppose	No

Comments: I OPPOSE the Part I revision that would allow an alternate public notification process for modifying the invasive species list. The reduces transparency in government and would likely make it more difficult for citizens to register their legitimate issues regarding a proposed addition. Recently, for example, discussions were held to declare cats as noxious pests. This is an issue our organization has a vested interest in. We would not want to be surprised by a public notice process that we did not understand or that did not give us the rights we have today under HRS 91. I am President of Kauai Community Cat Project and a resident of Kauai residing in Wailua Homesteads.

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
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: jessica.panzer@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2448 on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM
Date: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 10:14:54 PM

SB2448

Submitted on: 3/1/2016

Testimony for WAM on Mar 1, 2016 13:30PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica middleton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Cats are terribly invasive!!! They are a huge threat to our last remaining native species and are spreading into the uplands. Cats need to be completely eradicated in my opinion. Advocates, get a life, get a house cat, and go home! Cats do not belong in our islands in wild form and need to be controlled!!!! Hawaii should be proactive like New Zealand is in eradicating invasive species.

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