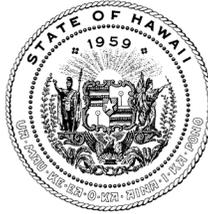


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, June 25, 2020
12:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

In consideration of
SENATE RESOLUTION 69
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, AND OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MITIGATION PLAN
WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SPREAD OF AND
ERADICATE GORSE ON HAWAII ISLAND.

Senate Resolution 69 urges the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to convene a task force with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), Department of Agriculture (DOA), Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and other interested parties to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan with short and long term solutions to address the spread and eradication of gorse on Hawai'i Island. **The Department supports this measure.**

Gorse, *Ulex eupopae*, was introduced to Hawai'i as a barrier for cattle and sheep and also as a grazing substitute for sheep. Once introduced, gorse quickly spread in the upper-elevation pasture lands on Hawai'i Island. Today, gorse is a major pasture weed on Hawai'i Island that dominates the landscape especially on the slopes of Mauna Kea. Gorse has the ability to out-compete native vegetation and form impenetrable thickets. It is categorized as "high risk" by the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment and is designated by the DOA as a noxious weed. The establishment of a task force as recommended by this measure may help to address the spread of and eradication of gorse on Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS & AGRICULTURE
AND ENVIRONMENT
HEARING ON JUNE 25, 2020 AT 12:30PM IN CR 016

**SR 69 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, AND OTHER
INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE MITIGATION PLAN
WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS THE SPREAD AND
ERADICATE GORSE ON HAWAII ISLAND.**

June 22, 2020

Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Resolution 69. This resolution urges the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to convene a task force to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan to address the spread and eradicate gorse on Hawaii Island. The Department supports the intent of this resolution and welcomes the collaboration and support from agencies and stakeholders to address this issue.

Gorse is a highly invasive thorny shrub that creates impenetrable thickets which can be over 12 feet tall. DHHL Aina Mauna lands contain Hawaii's largest infestation of gorse, covering over 10,000 acres which prohibits homesteading and other land uses. The ecology and characteristics of this invasive species, which include abundant and early seed production, small seeds that are easily spread and an over 30-year seedbank life, make containment, removal and long-term control of gorse very difficult and costly. The importance of eliminating this plant cannot be overstated. DHHL spends a great amount of time, effort and resources to control gorse annually and continues to look for the most feasible, efficient and effective long-term solution to the gorse infestation on the Aina Mauna lands of Humuula and Piipihonua. On Hawaii Island, gorse is primarily found on DHHL lands, but is able to spread to a much larger landscape. It is an island wide issue and responsibility and it is appropriate that other agencies and stakeholders are informed and involved in eradication efforts. Any assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Senator Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Page 2

DHHL requests the following technical amendments: 1) in the 3rd whereas clause, replace “careless” with “limited” and 2) in the 5th whereas clause, replace “inadequate” with “limited.”

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

June 25, 2020
12:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 016

**SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL, AND
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE
MITIGATION PLAN WITH SHORT AND LONG TERM SOLUTIONS TO
ADDRESS THE SPREAD OF AND ERADICATE GORSE ON HAWAII ISLAND**

Chairpersons Shimabukuro and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Resolution 69, Relating to urging the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to convene a task force with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Invasive Species Council, and other interested parties to develop a comprehensive mitigation plan with short and long term solutions to address the spread of and eradicate gorse on Hawaii Island. This task force will leverage all county, state, and federal agencies to address the problem and explore potential commercial opportunities, such as the use in biofuel, feedstock, and oils, that would help address the issue; and submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2021. Certified copies of this Resolution will be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Hawaiian Resources, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Hawaii Invasive Species Council



Program Supervisor, and Mayors of each county. The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) is a significant high elevation pasture and forestry pest. Because of gorse's invasiveness, it is considered a noxious weed pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules 4-68. To prevent the further spread of noxious weeds, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 152-3 prohibits the transport of noxious weeds, including gorse, to areas that are free or reasonably free of the same noxious weed, unless the movement is for educational or research purposes and is authorized by a permit issued by the department. While the Department supports the removal of invasive species such as gorse and the need to provide economic opportunities for native Hawaiians, any mitigation projects to harvest or remove gorse must comply with HRS 152-3 in regard to not moving gorse to areas that are free or reasonably free from gorse, and must employ measures to ensure that those projects do not unintentionally further spread gorse. Additionally, when potentially commercializing an invasive species, there may be an unintended consequence of increasing the incentive to spread and/or maintain said species to maintain the commercial aspect.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SR-69

Submitted on: 6/23/2020 3:31:50 PM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rayne Kauhi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SR-69

Submitted on: 6/24/2020 12:08:14 PM

Testimony for HWN on 6/25/2020 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronsten Kossow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support.