

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

643

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 299
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 299, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for the Native Resources and Fire Protection Program and Hawaii Invasive Species Council to continue to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Health; Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Invasive Species Council; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Climate Change and Health Working Group; Sierra Club of Hawai'i; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; The Outdoor Circle; Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; O'ahu Invasive Species Committee; Green Party of Hawai'i; Kauai Invasive Species Committee; Carol Kwan Consulting, LLC; and numerous individuals.

Your Committee finds that invasive species pose a significant threat to Hawaii's ecosystems, agriculture, public health, and economy. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council plays a critical role in coordinating efforts across state, federal, and private

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entities to prevent, control, and eradicate harmful species such as the little fire ant, coqui frog, and fungi that cause rapid ohia death. Despite its essential work, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's funding has remained stagnant while the demand for resources has grown, limiting its ability to fully address emerging threats. By supporting the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, this measure ensures a proactive and coordinated response to invasive species, protecting Hawaii's biodiversity, food security, and public health.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 299, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 299, HD1		Committee Referral: WAL, AGR, FIN		Date: 2/12/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
AGR Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)		X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)		X			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.		X			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.		X			
5. QUINLAN, Sean		X			
6. WARD, Gene					X
TOTAL (6)		5			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					