

Honolulu, Hawaii

**MAR 21 2025**RE: H.B. No. 299  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred H.B. No. 299, H.D. 1, entitled:

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

beg leave to report as follows:

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

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, Honolulu Board of Water Supply, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, Sierra Club of Hawai'i, Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, Free Access Coalition, Shimanchu Wai Protectors, Slow Food Oahu, Life of the Land, Green Party of Hawai'i, Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo, Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group, O'ahu Invasive Species Committee, and forty-six individuals.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Big Island Invasive Species Committee and Pōhaku Pelemaka.



Your Committees find that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) fills an indispensable role as an agency that coordinates efforts to control and eradicate invasive species with and across multiple agencies and organizations. Your Committees further find that despite the invaluable work carried out by the Council, funding for the Council has not increased in four years, limiting the Council and its partner organizations to invasive species containment rather than eradication. This measure will provide the Council and the Native Resources and Fire Protection Program with the necessary resources to continue to control and eradicate invasive species in the State.

Your Committees have amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 299, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommend that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 299, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committees on Water and Land  
and Agriculture and  
Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



LORRAINE R. INOUY, Chair



The Senate  
Thirty-Third Legislature  
State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Water and Land**  
**WTL**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
HB 299 HD1	WTL/AEN, WAM	03/19/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
INOUE, Lorraine R. (C)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C. (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley				✓
MCKELVEY, Angus L.K.				✓
DECORTE, Samantha	✓			
<b>TOTAL</b>	3	0	0	2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align:center; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>				
Distribution:            Original    Yellow    Pink    Goldenrod File with Committee Report    Clerk's Office    Drafting Agency    Committee File Copy				

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes

The Senate  
 Thirty-Third Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Agriculture and Environment**  
**AEN**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:
HB 299 HD1	WTL/AEN, WAM	3/19/25

The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.  
 If so, then the previous decision was to: \_\_\_\_\_

The Recommendation is:

Pass, unamended 2312    
  Pass, with amendments 2311    
 Hold 2310    
 Recommit 2313

Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	X			
RICHARDS, III, Herbert M. "Tim" (VC)	X			
DECOITE, Lynn	X			
RHOADS, Karl	X			
AWA, Brenton	X			
<b>TOTAL</b>	5			

Recommendation:      Adopted      Not Adopted

Chair's or Designee's Signature: 

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