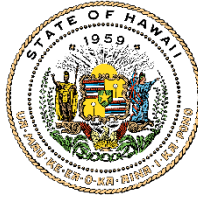


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
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RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
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

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
9:35 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 140, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 140, Senate Draft 1 requires that firewood imported from another state be certified and labeled as heat-treated. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The Department works to protect Hawai'i's forest resources, native biodiversity, and cultural heritage from invasive pests that enter the state through imported goods. Preventing the introduction of forest pests such as the Erythrina gall wasp and fungal diseases like Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and myrtle rust is much more cost-effective than managing them once they have become established.

Untreated firewood remains an unregulated, high-risk pathway for invasive forest pests, including boring beetles and the diseases they can vector. Most states have adopted legal requirements for standardized heat treatments to prevent the movement of forest pests spread by infested firewood, but Hawai'i remains unprotected. Most imported wood is not inspected by the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) Plant Quarantine Branch despite incidences of infested firewood being detected and confiscated. Requiring heat treatment of all firewood entering the state from other states will help prevent pests from falling through the cracks and becoming established in Hawai'i.

The Department has been working with HDOA to establish administrative rules to implement a requirement that imported firewood be heat treated. However, the HDOA has been unable to initiate the rulemaking process, and the draft firewood rule has been stalled for years. The proposal

to require heat treatment of all firewood entering the state has included outreach to vendors and local firewood producers and found no opposition. Establishing these regulations by statute would eliminate this invasive pathway immediately and help protect Hawai'i's forest resources.

The Department requests that the Committee also consider making the firewood prohibition apply to the *transportation and sale* of untreated imported firewood. Imported firewood frequently enters the state at ports undeclared and uninspected. Unless HDOA has the authority, it cannot confiscate untreated firewood that has not originated in the State and is being transported or sold. The specific recommendations are to amend this bill on page 3, line 16 as follows:

- (a) The introduction of firewood into the State from another state and the transportation or sale of firewood within the State shall be prohibited except for:

And conforming amendment on page 4, line 17:

- (c) The department may authorize the importation, transportation, or sale of firewood

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



The Senate  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
9:35 am Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of SB 140 SD1

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 140 SD1** *Relating to Invasive Species*. This bill protects Hawaii's forests by requiring firewood to be heat-treated or otherwise approved by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) prior to importation from other states.

The movement of firewood is a "high-risk pathway for spreading non-native and native forest pests in the United States."<sup>1</sup> Firewood can be low-quality wood that includes bark, making it easy for forest pests and diseases to remain alive in the harvested wood. The Nature Conservancy's Don't Move Firewood Program has identified dozens of harmful pests that can move on or in firewood, such as the Asian Longhorned Beetle, Emerald Ash Borer, and diseases of trees.<sup>2</sup>

The importation of firewood from the continental U.S. into Hawaii is currently under-regulated as a pathway. As noted in SB 140 SD1, prior to 2021 the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) required much of the firewood moving between states to be heat treated to slow the spread of the Emerald Ash Borer. However, that requirement was removed in 2021 as the pest became widespread in the continental United States.<sup>3</sup> Many states have already enacted heat treatment requirements similar to those proposed in SB 140 SD1. Not requiring these same treatments leaves Hawaii in the vulnerable position as one of the remaining states that will take untreated firewood. Unsuspecting consumers can purchase pest-infested firewood, inadvertently bringing pests to their homes and communities. Requiring heat treatment prior to importation into Hawaii is a sensible, low-cost, and high-reward solution. The proposed requirements in this bill do not apply to firewood harvested in Hawaii.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/firewood\\_pathway\\_assessment.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/sites/default/files/firewood_pathway_assessment.pdf), p.1

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/invasive-species/>

<sup>3</sup> 85 FedReg 81085 (2020); <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/12/15/2020-26734/removal-of-emerald-ash-borer-domestic-quarantine-regulations>

SB 140 contained language prohibiting the sale or transportation of untreated imported firewood which was removed by the Committee on Agriculture and Environment at the request of HDOA. We suggest that removing this language may have unintended consequences for enforcement that were not presented earlier. CGAPS worked closely with HDOA for more than 5 years to prevent the spread of pests via imported firewood. During that time, HDOA staff reported that much of the firewood imported into Hawaii from other states is not presented for inspection, as required under current law. Instead, the firewood is imported in containers with various items headed for hardware or big box stores. Once this firewood is on store shelves, HDOA can no longer enforce an importation requirement, leaving them without enforcement options. Prohibiting the sale or transportation of untreated imported firewood would allow HDOA to remove untreated firewood from store shelves after importation. This is the last regulatory opportunity that HDOA would have to protect consumers and prevent potential infestations. We respectfully request this Committee consider the following amendments to ensure that HDOA can enforce treatment requirements for imported firewood to protect consumers and forests in Hawaii:

On page 3, line 16, insert “and the transportation or sale of firewood within the State” after “from another state” so the resulting text will read:

“(a) The introduction of firewood into the State from another State and the transportation or sale of firewood within the State shall be prohibited except:”

On page 4, line 17, make conforming changes so that it reads:

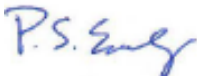
“(c) The department may authorize the importation, transportation, or sale of firewood....”

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

Aloha,



Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
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**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**LATE**

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER**  
**PROTECTION**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2025**  
**9:35 AM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 229 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 140, SD1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 140 SD1, relating to invasive species. The bill prohibits the importation of firewood into the State, except for firewood that meets certain standards; requires firewood that is imported into the State from another state to be certified and labeled as heat-treated; and establishes certain exemptions.

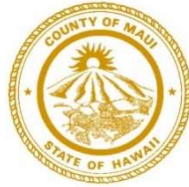
The Department agrees with the intent of this measure, offers comments, and is thankful for the inclusion of the Department's prior suggested changes. While this measure does restrict the importation of firewood into the State, the Department believes that the language contained in this bill should be effectuated via the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), rather than through Statute. HAR 4-70 already lists the requirements for importation of other plants, including non-propagative plant parts, and believes that this is the appropriate place for firewood-related provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
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[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

**LATE**

TO: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: February 18, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT OF SB140 SD1, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The act prohibits the importation of firewood into the State, except for firewood that meets certain standards. Requires firewood that is imported into the State from another state to be certified and labeled as heat-treated. Establishes certain exemptions.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i is the endemic species, meaning found here and no where else, capital of the world. We have the rarest native and endemic plants, animals, and micro organisms. All of these species are foundational to our ability to live and thrive here in Hawai'i.
2. Furthermore, due to a lack of overall biosecurity, we are losing the fight in protecting our native environment. Nearly every native species in Hawai'i is either endangered, critically endangered, or extinct. Simply put, without these native species and a healthy environment, our ability to inhabit these islands become less likely for our future generations.
3. Our Hawaiian environment is incredibly vulnerable and fragile. Across Hawai'i, generally, there is less than 10% of our fully intact native forests that are alive today. This marginal amount of fully intact native forests are under constant pressure from new and established invasive species. This bill aims to address one of the many gaps in our biosecurity system.

Mahalo for your consideration.

18 February 2025  
BIISC  
23 E Kawili St  
Hilo, HI 96771  
[biisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:biisc@hawaii.edu)



Attn: Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
RE: SB140

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) would like to express strong support for SB140, which requires firewood imported into Hawai'i to be heat-treated to prevent the spread of invasive pests. As an organization dedicated to controlling and managing invasive species, we recognize that firewood is a significant pathway for both the introduction and spread of new invasive insects and pathogens in Hawai'i.

This bill fills an important biosecurity gap and helps to reduce the risk of new invasive species, like asian longhorn beetle, laurel wilt, or red imported fire ants from arriving on our shores. Hawai'i Island residents are already dealing with the mounting impacts associated with established invaders, like little fire ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*), Queensland Longhorn Beetle (*Acalolepta aesthetica*), and the *Ceratocystis* fungi that cause Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Queensland Longhorn Beetle, in particular, is especially damaging because of its wide host range, which includes culturally and economically important species, like kukui, 'ulu, avocado, citrus, cacao, alahe'e, hibiscus, and more.

By requiring that imported firewood be heat-treated, SB140 will address a critical biosecurity gap and work to prevent the introduction of new invasive insects and pathogens to Hawai'i. We urge you to support SB140 to protect Hawai'i from new invasive species that could impact the economy, environment, agriculture, and public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Franny Kinslow Brewer  
Program Manager  
[fbrewer@hawaii.edu](mailto:fbrewer@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 933-3340

**SB-140-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/14/2025 11:19:59 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With all the problems from ROD and coconut rhinoceros beetle we need to protect our land from invasion from other possible pathogens/pests.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love



**SB-140-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/15/2025 3:14:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/19/2025 9:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB140 will help reduce threats to our native forests from invasive pests, some of which are already incurring significant damage. Please pass SB140

JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of  
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

### Senate Committee on COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
9:35 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 and Via Videoconference

### In consideration of SENATE BILL 140 SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 140 Senate Draft 1 prohibits the importation of firewood into the State, except for firewood that meets certain standards, requires firewood that is imported into the State from another state to be certified and labeled as heat-treated and establishes certain exemptions. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure.**

Hawai'i is home to a vast array of endemic species—plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. Many of these species are already under threat from invasive pests and diseases, and untreated firewood poses a direct risk to the delicate balance of our ecosystems. When firewood is transported into Hawai'i from other regions without proper treatment, it often carries with it invasive insects, fungi, and pathogens that can devastate our native forests, wildlife, and agriculture.

In addition to the environmental threats, the importation of untreated firewood also puts a strain on the resources of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, which already faces challenges in managing and monitoring the vast number of agricultural commodities that are imported into the State. By managing the importation of untreated firewood, we can significantly reduce the burden on our state's resources and allow our agricultural and environmental agencies to focus on other critical priorities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.