

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025
10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41, SD1
ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY PLAN
THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY.

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 encouraging each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county.

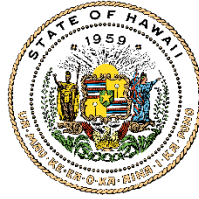
The Department agrees with the intent of this resolution that seeks to create more specificity in biosecurity plans by prioritizing the needs of each county. However, the Department notes that in April 2024, it entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the University of Hawaii, which includes each of the island invasive species committees, for priority pests, including coconut rhinoceros beetles, coqui frogs, and little fire ants. One goal of the MOU is to create county-specific plans for the aforementioned pests and the partners are currently working together towards achieving this goal. Upon completion of the tasks defined in the MOU, the MOU can be the model for the creation and implementation of future county-specific biosecurity plans.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Friday, April 11, 2025
10:30 AM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41, SENATE DRAFT 1
ENCOURAGING EACH COUNTY TO ESTABLISH ITS OWN BIOSECURITY
PLAN THAT PRIORITIZES THE NEEDS OF THE COUNTY**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41, Senate Draft 1 encourages each county to establish an individual biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county; collaborate with other counties in developing its biosecurity plan; share its findings and biosecurity plan and collaborate with the State, including the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC); and that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chair of the Board of Agriculture; Co-Chairpersons of the HISC; and Mayors and Council Chairs of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department is the administrator of the HISC, coordinates Department efforts to address invasive species on State lands and encourages Counties to develop individual biosecurity plans. The Department is a signatory of the High Priority Pest Memorandum of Understanding to address little fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and coqui frogs, committing to working alongside our partners to control and, if possible, eradicate these invasive species. These individual county plans would create a new avenue to work with County partners.

It is imperative that all partners work together to protect Hawai'i's natural beauty on land and sea, protect human health, and ensure our economy works for all residents. This Resolution will help develop a more comprehensive approach that includes funding and resource recommendations.

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

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

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

House Committee on AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Friday, April 11, 2025
10:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41 SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY, INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEES, FUNDING

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 Senate Draft 1: encourages each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the needs of the county; collaborate with other counties in developing its biosecurity plan; share its findings and biosecurity plan and collaborate with the State, including the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Co-Chairpersons of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council; and Mayors and Council Chairs of the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this Resolution.**

As stated in the Resolution, Invasive species have detrimental impacts to many facets of life here in Hawaii. Not only do invasive species threaten endangered species and crowd out native flora and fauna across the State, including protected areas, but invasive species can reduce agriculture production, suppress tourism, and threaten human health.

The Council supports the bill's requirement that each County develop its own biosecurity plan in cooperation with other counties and government agencies. The Council recently helped facilitate the establishment of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to address the high-priority pests of Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, and Coqui frog. Fundamental to the MOU's success is the collaboration with all MOU partners because invasive species cross jurisdictional boundaries. Successful prevention, detection, control, and eradication of invasive species cannot happen with one entity acting alone. These County Plans will help all partner make progress together.

The Council also supports this bill's focus on developing County plans as each Hawaiian island has different problems caused by the invasive species found on its lands. The Council supports the inclusion of funding recommendations and resource needs in the County Plans to ensure proper management, control, and eradication efforts occur statewide and in local communities.

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



House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Friday, April 11, 2025
10:30 a.m. Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SCR 41 SD1

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SCR 41 SD1**, which encourages each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the county's biosecurity needs.

As noted in SCR 41 SD1, invasive species have severely impacted each county and each county faces unique biosecurity challenges. The creation of a plan for each county that establishes and prioritizes biosecurity needs for that county will assist counties and the State in targeting resources to the highest impact programs. We also note that the statewide Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan is a 10-year plan ending in 2027, making the need for additional biosecurity planning even more urgent.

We are grateful that the Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and on Agriculture and Environment added language to SCR 41 SD1 to expand each county's biosecurity plan to include proposed legislative changes at both the State and county levels to promote the county's biosecurity. Currently, counties are completely preempted by State law from banning or regulating the movement of noxious weeds, pests, or other invasive species or material infested with a pest or invasive species.¹ Each county's plan may now identify alternatives to address this gap in a county's ability to promote its biosecurity.

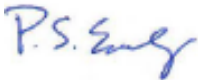
¹ See *Atay v. Cty. of Maui*, 842 F.3d 688, 709 (9th Cir. 2016); *Syngenta Seeds, Inc. v. Cty. of Kauai*, 664 F. App'x 669, 673 (9th Cir. 2016); and *Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, No. CIV. 14-00267 BMK, 2014 WL 6685817, (D. Haw. Nov. 26, 2014), *aff'd sub nom. Hawai'i Papaya Indus. Ass'n v. Cty. of Hawaii*, 666 F. App'x 631 (9th Cir. 2016)

Mahalo for the opportunity to support SCR 41 SD1.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Testimony on SCR41

Relating to County Biosecurity Plans

April 11th, 2025

10:30 AM

Room 325

The Climate Change and Health Working Group (CCHWG) is a cross-sector collaborative committed to strengthening Hawai'i's public health resiliency in response to climate change. CCHWG supports this resolution encouraging each county to develop its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes its unique needs and challenges.

Testimony of the Hawai'i Climate Change and Health Working Group

In Support of SCR 41

Relating to County Biosecurity Plans

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

The Climate Change and Health Working Group strongly supports SCR 41 and its companion measure, which encourages each county in Hawai'i to develop its own biosecurity plan that reflects its unique environmental and community needs.

This resolution is directly aligned with CCHWG's mission and values. United by the principles of equity, justice, and Aloha, we collaborate across disciplines and communities to strengthen Hawai'i's climate and health resiliency. Using a data-driven approach, we research and

communicate the human health impacts of climate change and advocate for policy solutions that prioritize our most at-risk community members.

Invasive species pose serious risks not only to ecosystems and agriculture but to public health—impacting food security, water safety, and vector-borne disease spread. These threats often fall hardest on frontline communities already facing climate and health inequities.

County-level biosecurity planning enables proactive, localized responses that are more adaptive and effective than one-size-fits-all approaches. Such efforts support community engagement, improve coordination across jurisdictions, and allow counties to identify relevant legislative solutions rooted in their own realities.

By encouraging each county to take the lead in planning for biosecurity, this resolution advances climate resilience, health equity, and local empowerment. We urge its adoption as a meaningful step toward protecting Hawai'i's people and natural resources.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support.

Sincerely,
The Climate Change & Health Working Group