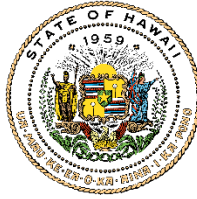


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

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

DAWN N.S. CHANG
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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 Committees on
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Friday, March 21, 2025
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 41
SENATE RESOLUTION 25
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY, COUNTIES, PLAN**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41 and companion Senate Resolution 25 encourage 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 is working for all residents. This Resolution will help to develop a more comprehensive approach that includes funding and resource recommendations.

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

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

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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 Committees on ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 21, 2025
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 41: 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.



The Senate
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Friday, March 21, 2025
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

LATE

Testimony in Support of SCR 41/SR 25

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Chang and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SCR 41/SR 25**, which encourages each county to establish its own biosecurity plan that prioritizes the county's biosecurity needs.

As noted in SCR 41, 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 hope that each county's biosecurity plan will identify proposed legislative changes at both the State and county levels that would assist the county with protecting its biosecurity. Currently, counties are completely preempted by State law from banning or regulating the movement of pests or other invasive species or material infested with a pest or invasive species.¹ A comprehensive plan could consider alternatives to address this gap in a county's ability to promote its biosecurity.

We request the Committees consider adding "and identifies proposals for legislative changes at the State and county level to promote the county's biosecurity" after "prioritizes the needs of the county" on page 1, line 30.

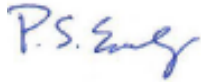
Mahalo for the opportunity to support SCR 41/SC 25.

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)

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christy'.

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P.S. Easley'.

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow