

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 11 , 2026

RE: H.B. No. 1931
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 1931 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO AGRICULTURE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish a State Noxious Weed Coordinator and update the process for designating and managing noxious weeds;
- (2) Allow public proposals to add, change, or remove noxious weed designations;
- (3) Require notice and public reporting for updates to the noxious weed list;
- (4) Clarify the authority of the Department and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity in regard to the noxious weed list and noxious weed control and eradication;
- (5) Authorize updates to the noxious weed list to be adopted by order and classify noxious weeds into categories; and
- (6) Strengthen the enforcement and penalties related to noxious weeds.



Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Hawai'i Farmers Union United; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity.

Your Committee finds that invasive plant species continue to pose significant ecological, agricultural, cultural, and economic threats to Hawaii. Your Committee further finds that the State's noxious weed list, maintained by the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, is a critical regulatory tool for identifying and managing invasive plants; however, the noxious weed list has not been updated since 1992. This measure establishes a clear, science-based listing process that allows for public participation and ensures that agencies and land managers have timely, accurate, and current information needed to respond effectively to invasive plant species.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Clarifying that the State Noxious Weed Coordinator shall be designated by the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity;
- (2) Allowing any person to submit a proposal to add, change, or remove noxious weed designations at any time during the year, rather than between January 1 and March 31 of each year;
- (3) Specifying that all proposals submitted to the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Board) ninety days before April 1 of each year shall be accepted by the Board for review;
- (4) Requiring the Board to vote on a proposal within one hundred eighty days after April 1;
- (5) Moving language regarding the public notification and input on changes to noxious weed designations to section 152-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which relates to the designation of noxious weeds and classes of noxious weeds;



- (6) Defining "advisory committee on plants and animals";
- (7) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (8) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

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. 1931, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1931, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

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



CORI CHUN, Chair

HSCR 175-26

Bill/Resolution No.: HB 1931		Committee Referral: AGR, JHA, FIN		Date:
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" 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. CHUN, Cory M. (C)	X			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	X			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	X			
4. LOWEN, Nicole E.				X
5. PERRUSO, Amy A.	X			
6. QUINLAN, Sean	X			
7. MATSUMOTO, Lauren	X			
TOTAL (7)	6			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				