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

Madame:

Your Committee on Water & Land, to which was referred H.B.
No. 1601, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to amend the expending agency
for a fiscal year 2026-2027 appropriation for the Hawaii Invasive
Species Council from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity
to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Hawaiʻi Farm
Bureau; The Nature Conservancy, Hawaiʻi and Palmyra; American Bird
Conservancy; Sierra Club of Hawaiʻi; Coordinating Group on Alien
Pest Species; Oʻahu Invasive Species Committee; Big Island Invasive
Species Committee; Hawaiʻi Food+ Policy; and one individual. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of
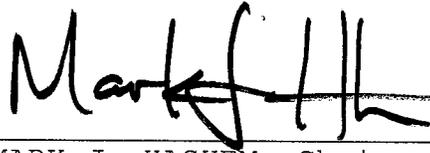Land and Natural Resources.

Your Committee finds that it is practical and fiscally
responsible to have the fiscal year 2026-2027 appropriation for
the Hawaii Invasive Species Council be expended by the Department
of Land and Natural Resources, which is currently responsible for
implementing the program. Aligning the expending authority with
the Department during this period will help ensure continuity,

reduce administrative inefficiencies, and allow the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to deploy resources quickly and effectively to address invasive species threats.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water & Land that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1601, H.D. 1, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Water & Land,

MARK J. HASHEM, Chair

Record of Votes of the Committee on Water & Land

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1601, HD1	Committee Referral: AGR, WAL, FIN	Date: 2/19/26

☐ The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.

The recommendation is to: ☑ Pass, unamended (as is) ☐ Pass, with amendments (HD) ☐ Hold
☐ Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)

WAL Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. HASHEM, Mark J. (C)	✓			
2. MORIKAWA, Dee (VC)	✓			
3. BELATTI, Della Au	✓			
4. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
5. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco	✓			
6. POEPOE, Mahina	✓			
7. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
8. SHIMIZU, Garner M.	✓			
9. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (9)	9	0	0	0

The recommendation is: ☑ Adopted ☐ Not Adopted

If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation.
committee acronym(s)

Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____

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