

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 19, 2026

RE: H.B. No. 2139
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 Higher Education, to which was referred
H.B. No. 2139, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the
University of Hawaii to conduct a study on effective treatment
methods to reduce populations of the Queensland longhorn beetle.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; University of
Hawai'i System; Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Association; Hawai'i
Farm Bureau; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; Hawai'i
Food+ Policy; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; Hawai'i
Farmers Union United; Mauna Kea Cacao LLC; and nine individuals.

Your Committee finds that while the *Acalolepta aesthetica*, or
Queensland longhorn beetle, was once endemic to Australia, it has
made its way to the Hawaiian islands, targeting many of the
State's agriculturally important plants and culturally significant
trees. Your Committee further finds that there have now been
sightings of these beetles on Oahu, a sign that they are rapidly
spreading from where they were first discovered on Hawaii Island.
This measure allows the State to take early action against the



invasive species before it can do more damage to Hawaii's ecosystems.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider an appropriation amount of \$138,443.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2139, 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 Higher Education,



ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



