

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

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

Testimony of  
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
Acting Chairperson

Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1931, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Bill 1931 House Draft 2 establishes a State Noxious Weed Coordinator; updates the process for designating and managing noxious weeds; allows public proposals to add, amend, or remove noxious weed designations; requires notice and public reporting; clarifies the authority of the Department and the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity; authorizes updates to the noxious weed list to be adopted by order, classifies noxious weeds into three categories; strengthens enforcement and penalties; and updates departmental duties for noxious weed control and eradication. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

This bill highlights the serious problem of invasive plants in Hawai'i. Hawai'i's economic, ecological, and cultural heritage are constantly under threat from both established and newly introduced plants. There is a strong need to keep the list of banned plant species as current and comprehensive as possible. Besides plants on the noxious weed lists of the federal government and the State of Hawai'i, all other plants from anywhere in the world can currently enter the State.

The Hawai'i Noxious Weed List (NWL) has not been updated since 1992. Since then, some species on the NWL have become widespread in Hawai'i, and many new invasive plants have

emerged in the State. This bill could help enhance the NWL's effectiveness by ensuring it is updated more frequently.

The Department advocates establishing a Noxious Weed Coordinator position. Historically, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) has managed the NWL and its upkeep, but it has not assigned dedicated personnel for this role in some time. The Department also supports annual updates to the NWL and the option to make emergency additions to the list.

Maintaining the NWL at DAB is essential for preventing the entry of some of the most invasive plants that threaten Hawai'i. Invasive plants regularly affect Hawai'i's ecosystems, culture, and economy, and the NWL helps the State stop some new threats from establishing themselves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1931, HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1931, HD2 relating to agriculture. The bill seeks to institute a formal and transparent framework to update and maintain the State's noxious weed list by establishing a state noxious weed coordinator, updating the process of noxious weed designation and management, allowing public proposals to add or remove noxious weed designations, requiring notice and public reporting, clarifying the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Board), authorizing the update of the noxious weed list by order, classifying noxious weeds into three categories, strengthening enforcement and penalties, and updating departmental duties for noxious weed control and eradication. The Department supports the intent and offers comments on this bill.

The Department agrees that the noxious weed list should be updated and maintained to be an effective tool in minimizing the introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the State. Updating and maintaining the list will require significant, dedicated effort from the state noxious weed coordinator. Existing staff do not have the capacity to assume these additional responsibilities. Therefore, the Department is requesting an allocation of \$120,000 to fund a full-time state noxious weed coordinator. Regarding the proposed §152-A(c) in Section 2 of the bill, the Department believes that this section is unnecessary because the requirements for this job description would need to be in compliance with collective bargaining and other human resources-related obligations upon establishment of the position. Rulemaking after position establishment would not

negate these requirements and the Department believes that the proposed requirements in §152-A(b) are already sufficient.

In addition, the Department is requesting an allocation of \$120,000 to fund a full-time Biosecurity Inspector position to investigate any potentially unlawful activities as described in Section 7 of the bill. The position will be responsible for collecting pertinent information to develop cases against potential violators so that relevant statutes may be enforced.

The Department is concerned that the bill does not provide a mechanism for the noxious weed coordinator to administratively review and deny proposals before the proposals are forwarded to the Board, particularly given the expanded definition of “noxious weed” to include plants potentially harmful to “natural resources, cultural resources, environment, or public or animal health.” The coordinator should have the authority to reject proposals that do not include all required information as specified in §152-B of Section 2. There may be situations where submitters fail to provide the necessary details or additional information requested by the coordinator. The Board should not be required to review proposals that are incomplete or contain insufficient information, as currently proposed under §152-C(a) of Section 2. Therefore, the Department respectfully recommends granting the noxious weed coordinator authority to deny incomplete proposals for review by the Board.

In §152-C(d) of Section 2 of the bill, it states that the Board shall vote on each proposal within one hundred eighty days after April 1, following consideration of each recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (Committee) and all oral and written comments submitted. The Department respectfully recommends that the Board vote on each proposal within one hundred eighty days after the scheduled Board meeting at which the proposals are accepted for review. This approach ensures that each proposal receives the same one hundred eighty-day review period, regardless of when the Board meeting occurs. Even so, the Department remains concerned that, depending on the number of requests or taxa proposed for review, there may not be sufficient time for the noxious weed coordinator to complete the review and provide recommendations to the Committee, and for the Committee to conduct its assessment and issue recommendations before the one hundred eighty-day deadline.

The Department is unclear on the intent of §152-C(f) of Section 2 of the bill. The Department does not believe that the Chair can “recommend” an emergency to the Board without proper notice, and notes that “petitions” are typically used for contested case hearings, to initiate rule changes, or for declaratory orders - none of which appear applicable here. Additionally, if the Board adopts an emergency revision to the noxious weed list and the Committee does not concur, it is unclear how the Committee’s recommendation would affect the Board’s order that has already been enacted.

The Department seeks clarification on the phrase 'limited distribution' as used in Section 8 of the bill, which states that Class A noxious weeds shall not be known to occur, or are of very limited distribution, in the State. The bill also states that Class B noxious weeds are those that are known to occur in the State but are of limited distribution on one or more islands. However, the term 'limited distribution' is not defined in the bill, and without clear criteria or thresholds, its meaning is open to interpretation. This lack of specificity may lead to inconsistent application of the classification system and uncertainty when determining whether a species meets the criteria for Class A or Class B designation.

In §152-4(g) of Section 8 of the bill, it states that any interested person may provide oral and written comments "during the period after the board accepts proposals for review under section 152-C...." The Department seeks clarification on when this comment period ends and respectfully recommends that it be concluded when the Board votes on the proposal. In addition, the Department seeks clarification on whether oral comments for a specific proposal may be provided at multiple Board and/or Committee meetings. Furthermore, the bill states that any interested person may "[p]rovide written comments on the proposal to the board and the state noxious weed coordinator." The Department seeks clarification on whether the Committee should also receive these written comments, particularly when comments are submitted after the Committee has issued its written recommendations to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2026  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1931, HD2  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1931, HD2 relating to agriculture. The bill seeks to institute a formal and transparent framework to update and maintain the State's noxious weed list by establishing a state noxious weed coordinator, updating the process of noxious weed designation and management, allowing public proposals to add or remove noxious weed designations, requiring notice and public reporting, clarifying the authority of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Board), authorizing the update of the noxious weed list by order, classifying noxious weeds into three categories, strengthening enforcement and penalties, and updating departmental duties for noxious weed control and eradication. The Department supports the intent and offers comments on this bill.

The Department agrees that the noxious weed list should be updated and maintained to be an effective tool in minimizing the introduction and spread of noxious weeds in the State. Updating and maintaining the list will require significant, dedicated effort from the state noxious weed coordinator. Existing staff do not have the capacity to assume these additional responsibilities. Therefore, the Department is requesting an allocation of \$120,000 to fund a full-time state noxious weed coordinator. Regarding the proposed §152-A(c) in Section 2 of the bill, the Department believes that this section is unnecessary because the requirements for this job description would need to be in compliance with collective bargaining and other human resources-related obligations upon establishment of the position. Rulemaking after position establishment would not

negate these requirements and the Department believes that the proposed requirements in §152-A(b) are already sufficient.

In addition, the Department is requesting an allocation of \$120,000 to fund a full-time Biosecurity Inspector position to investigate any potentially unlawful activities as described in Section 7 of the bill. The position will be responsible for collecting pertinent information to develop cases against potential violators so that relevant statutes may be enforced.

The Department is concerned that the bill does not provide a mechanism for the noxious weed coordinator to administratively review and deny proposals before the proposals are forwarded to the Board, particularly given the expanded definition of “noxious weed” to include plants potentially harmful to “natural resources, cultural resources, environment, or public or animal health.” The coordinator should have the authority to reject proposals that do not include all required information as specified in §152-B of Section 2. There may be situations where submitters fail to provide the necessary details or additional information requested by the coordinator. The Board should not be required to review proposals that are incomplete or contain insufficient information, as currently proposed under §152-C(a) of Section 2. Therefore, the Department respectfully recommends granting the noxious weed coordinator authority to deny incomplete proposals for review by the Board.

In §152-C(d) of Section 2 of the bill, it states that the Board shall vote on each proposal within one hundred eighty days after April 1, following consideration of each recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals (Committee) and all oral and written comments submitted. The Department respectfully recommends that the Board vote on each proposal within one hundred eighty days after the scheduled Board meeting at which the proposals are accepted for review. This approach ensures that each proposal receives the same one hundred eighty-day review period, regardless of when the Board meeting occurs. Even so, the Department remains concerned that, depending on the number of requests or taxa proposed for review, there may not be sufficient time for the noxious weed coordinator to complete the review and provide recommendations to the Committee, and for the Committee to conduct its assessment and issue recommendations before the one hundred eighty-day deadline.

The Department is unclear on the intent of §152-C(f) of Section 2 of the bill. The Department does not believe that the Chair can “recommend” an emergency to the Board without proper notice, and notes that “petitions” are typically used for contested case hearings, to initiate rule changes, or for declaratory orders - none of which appear applicable here. Additionally, if the Board adopts an emergency revision to the noxious weed list and the Committee does not concur, it is unclear how the Committee’s recommendation would affect the Board’s order that has already been enacted.

The Department seeks clarification on the phrase 'limited distribution' as used in Section 8 of the bill, which states that Class A noxious weeds shall not be known to occur, or are of very limited distribution, in the State. The bill also states that Class B noxious weeds are those that are known to occur in the State but are of limited distribution on one or more islands. However, the term 'limited distribution' is not defined in the bill, and without clear criteria or thresholds, its meaning is open to interpretation. This lack of specificity may lead to inconsistent application of the classification system and uncertainty when determining whether a species meets the criteria for Class A or Class B designation.

In §152-4(g) of Section 8 of the bill, it states that any interested person may provide oral and written comments "during the period after the board accepts proposals for review under section 152-C...." The Department seeks clarification on when this comment period ends and respectfully recommends that it be concluded when the Board votes on the proposal. In addition, the Department seeks clarification on whether oral comments for a specific proposal may be provided at multiple Board and/or Committee meetings. Furthermore, the bill states that any interested person may "[p]rovide written comments on the proposal to the board and the state noxious weed coordinator." The Department seeks clarification on whether the Committee should also receive these written comments, particularly when comments are submitted after the Committee has issued its written recommendations to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

BIISC  
23 E. Kawili St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 933-3340  
[www.biisc.org](http://www.biisc.org)



Mar 2, 2026

Hearing: Mar 4 Committee on Finance  
RE: HB1931

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi , and members of the committee,

I would like to express BIISC's support for HB1931 which creates a State noxious weed coordinator and overhauls the existing noxious weed statutes, including provisions to allow the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity to update the noxious weed list by order and requiring the Board to accept petitions from the public for the designation of plants as noxious weed species.

Hawai'i's Noxious Weed Law has not been updated since 1992. Our understanding of the impacts and movement of invasive organisms has grown exponentially in the decades since. Worldwide movement of goods also accelerated dramatically during that time - all while our regulatory framework remained largely static. This mismatch has left the State reactive rather than proactive, resulting in the proliferation of many harmful plant species that frustrate farmers, land managers, and residents on a daily basis.

As the primary entity on the Big Island responsible for finding and evaluating newly naturalized plants, we work hard to slow the flow of new plants onto the landscape. Sometimes, it can feel like we are chasing our tails, trying to get control of current populations while also being flooded by new species. Last year, our community alerted BIISC staff that a retailer in Hilo was selling the highly invasive Australian tree fern, even as conservation programs are using tax dollars to control that plant's destructive spread into our watersheds. BIISC staff (and members of the public) contacted store managers and urged them to remove the plants from sale. The retailers declined to act, however, stating that they had checked with the HDAB and learned that the plant was not listed as a Noxious Weed, and therefore was completely legal to sell. But in 1992 we did not yet know that ATF would be an invasive plant in Hawaiian landscapes. This is a clear example of how outdated statutes limit regulatory authority and actually work against the interests of our state.

Our Invasive Plant Prevention program, working with UH researchers, actively documents escapes from cultivation, and found 24 new species last year alone. For example, BIISC is currently monitoring an incipient population of *Rosa rugosa*, a popular horticulture plant that is now listed as noxious in several U.S. states and in Canada. Despite its known invasiveness elsewhere, the species was - and is - still able to be legally imported and cultivated in Hawai'i. The purple-flowered rubbervine (*Cryptostegia madagascariensis*) has been found twice in the last 3 years in cultivated landscaping, even as we have worked to eradicate it for nearly a decade - indicating continued importation despite BIISC having invested years of staff time and resources to control it in the wild.

The current noxious weed law relies on decades-old information, assigning status to individual islands as being "free" or "relatively free" of certain species when many of these plants are now widespread on those islands. Species such as *Anredera cordifolia* and *Bocconia frutescens* are well established across Hawai'i Island, while *Chromolaena odorata* is widespread on O'ahu. This

muddies the waters of response and of communication to the public. Without a more nimble, regularly updated system, the noxious weed list cannot serve as an effective management tool.

HB1931 provides a practical, science-based framework to modernize Hawai‘i’s noxious weed program, improve coordination, facilitate training and collaboration, and most importantly, allow the State to act earlier—when control is still feasible and affordable.

We strongly urge this committee to support HB1931 and help align Hawai‘i’s noxious weed laws with the realities we face on the ground today.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Franny Kinslow Brewer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Franny Kinslow Brewer  
Program Manager  
Big Island Invasive Species Committee



## HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 4, 2026

10:00 AM

Conference Room 308

### In **SUPPORT** of **HB1931 HD2**: RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

---

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS HB1931 HD2**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive plants on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Hawai'i's history provides us with a host of lessons regarding the wide-ranging and potentially irreversible damage that invasive species can inflict on our islands and ways of life. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, impacting not just native habitat but also reducing aquifer recharge, increasing our vulnerability to floods and wildfires, and smothering our nearshore reefs and waters with runoff. Parasites and diseases carried by invasive and introduced species have impacted local food production and increased the use of toxic pesticides on farms and in home gardens, risking both public health as well as threatening stream and nearshore species critical to our aquatic ecosystems. Invasive plants can also crowd out, displace, and extirpate native species, undermining the biodiversity that defines our islands, culture, and unique ways of life.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports this measure, which would implement long-awaited recommendations that can facilitate much more timely and effective government responses to invasive weeds, including through dedicated staff who can track and coordinate weed response efforts; mechanisms for public participation in identifying new invasive plants for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to take action on; additional DAB authorities to address invasive plant infestations, and other long-sought and much-needed changes to the existing statutory invasive plant biosecurity framework. This comprehensive and common-sense suite of fixes will be critical to minimizing or avoiding the impacts of invasive plant species on our islands, as well as the exponentially increasing financial, ecological, agricultural, and cultural costs associated with delayed action.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:04:17 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Kaaumoana	Hanalei Watershed Hui	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members,

We STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931HD22 and its purpose to fight invasive species in Hawaii. It supports food security, ecological and cultural integrity and climate resilience.

Me ka pono

Makaala Kaaumoana

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:23:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John & Rita Shockley	Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports HB1931

[HB1931 HD2](#) would implement longstanding recommendations to **boost our ability to fight back against invasive weeds and plants, and the threats they pose to our food security, water security, ecological and cultural integrity, climate resilience, and economy.** It would provide for dedicated staff who can track and coordinate weed response efforts; mechanisms for the public to identify new invasive plants for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to take action on; additional DAB authorities to prevent and address invasive plant infestations; and strengthened compliance and enforcement tools, including added penalties.

Mahalo for your time.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 5:18:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nako?olani Warrington	Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT for HB 1931 HD2.**

Protect our ‘āina.

Support and Pass HB 1931 HD2. Mahalo.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00 AM Room 308  
State Capitol

**SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of HB1931 HD2 “Relating to Agriculture”**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The O’ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) **strongly supports HB1931 HD2, Relating to Agriculture**, which would modernize the Hawai’i noxious weed law and establish a transparent, systematic, and more timely process for updating the state noxious weed list. The state noxious weed list has not been comprehensively updated since 1992, underscoring the urgent need for revision and a system that encourages more timely updates.

Invasive plants are one of the most serious threats to Hawai’i watersheds, native ecosystems, agricultural lands, cultural resources, and communities. OISC works on the front lines of early detection and rapid response, and we’ve seen firsthand how quickly invasive weeds can establish, spread, and become exponentially more expensive to control. Designation as a noxious weed, especially before the species is known to be widespread, will lead to cost savings in regards to control and a higher likelihood of successful eradication.

The following provisions outlined in this bill would significantly enhance the State’s ability to fight priority noxious weeds:

**1. Establishment of a State Noxious Weed Coordinator**

A dedicated coordinator will significantly improve statewide coordination, scientific review, interagency collaboration, and public transparency. Management plans are needed for a number of noxious weeds. Centralizing oversight and proposal management will ensure consistency and accountability in how new threats are evaluated and addressed.

**2. Transparent and Systematic Proposal and Review Process**

Allowing public nominations for noxious species and establishing structured review timelines, scientific assessments, advisory committee input, and board action creates a transparent and defensible process. This framework will strengthen the credibility of designations, provide for community input and ensure decisions are properly contextualized and grounded in evidence.

**3. Annual Adoption of the State Noxious Weed List**

Regular updates are essential, especially in a state where new non-native plant species are continually detected. An annual adoption process, alongside an emergency listing authority and process when urgent action is required, will allow Hawai’i to respond more proactively rather than reactively.

**4. Strengthened Enforcement and Penalties**

Clear prohibitions and meaningful penalties are necessary to deter the importation, sale,

and transport of harmful species. Strong enforcement authority supports responsible industry practices and protects the broader public interest.

**5. Broader Definition of “Noxious Weed”**

Expanding the definition beyond strictly agricultural impacts to include environmental, cultural, and public health impacts reflects the modern biosecurity mission and the integrated nature of our Hawai'i ecosystems.

Invasive species management is most effective when prevention and early action are prioritized. Updating this law will give agencies, land managers, and community partners the tools they need to prevent the next major invasion rather than manage its long-term consequences.

OISC respectfully urges the Committee to pass this important measure. This bill strengthens the Hawai'i biosecurity framework, promotes transparency and public engagement, and ensures that the State can act swiftly and strategically to protect our natural and agricultural resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Nate Dube".

Nate Dube  
Manager  
O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC)



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

March 4, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1931, HD2**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1931, HD2**, which, among other things, establishes a State Noxious Weed Coordinator, updates the process for designating and managing noxious weeds to include the acceptance of public proposals to add or remove noxious weed designations, and updates departmental duties for noxious weed control and eradication.

HFB looks forward to the revitalization and modernization of the noxious weed management program, which is significantly outdated and ineffective. The proposed program will serve as an essential State function to prevent the importation and sale of harmful and invasive species that devastate natural and agricultural resources and ultimately lower our quality of life. The process described in the bill is well-informed, multi-leveled, and has the input and support of experts in the field as well as stakeholder representatives.

While we understand the intent to expedite implementation, HFB encourages the DAB to maintain meaningful stakeholder engagement when adopting initial rules, even if those rules are exempt from Chapter 91 requirements. Continued transparency and input will strengthen the program and build confidence among affected agricultural producers.

Thank you for your continued support of agriculture through measures like this, which will help sustain local food production and protect our farming and ranching history and culture.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
10:00 am Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB1931 HD2**

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HB1931 HD2**, *Relating to Agriculture*, which sets out a plan to revitalize noxious weed prevention and control efforts at the State level. The bill requires the noxious weed list to be updated annually by order of the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity (the Board), establishes a process for the public to propose plant species for designation as noxious weeds, authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to carry out noxious weed control actions without a contribution from the landowner/land occupier of each parcel where the actions will take place, designates a State noxious weed coordinator within DAB, and strengthens enforcement.

Noxious weeds impact agriculture, livestock, natural resources, cultural resources, and quality of life, and may require expensive management and ongoing herbicide treatments. However, noxious weed prevention and control have not been prioritized by the DAB, as other priorities have required its attention and resources. As noted in HB1931 HD2, the list of designated noxious weeds in chapter 4-68 Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) was last updated in 1992 and now includes many widespread species, while omitting highly invasive species, allowing them to be imported into and sold within the State. The noxious weed statute, chapter 152, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), and administrative rules, chapter 4-68, HAR, are holdovers from an earlier time and do not address current noxious weed issues in the State.

HB1931 HD2 is a much-hoped-for overhaul of the noxious weed program. The process set out in the bill for annually updating the noxious weed list is similar to the effective noxious weed listing process used in Washington State<sup>1</sup> and to the recommendations of a working group led by DAB that met in 2020-21, comprised of experts from DAB, representatives of agricultural producers, the island-based invasive species committees, Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), Bishop Museum, CGAPS, and others. HB1931 HD2 incorporates sensible changes to the process and timeline for updates to the State's noxious weed list. We note that the requirements in HB1931 HD2 for public input on proposed noxious weed designations are similar to the requirements for public input set out in section 150A-6.6 HRS and section 4-71-4.2 HAR, that allow additions to, or deletions from, the lists of restricted and prohibited animal species to be made by order of the Board, instead of amending the lists through chapter 91 HRS

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/get-involved>

rulemaking. We also note that the existing noxious weed statutes allow the Board to modify the list of noxious weeds without chapter 91 HRS rulemaking.

Another important update proposed in HB1931 HD2 is the removal of the requirement that DAB enter into a cooperative agreement with each landowner/land occupier of a parcel where DAB intends to control a noxious weed. (§152-6(d) HRS) Currently, DAB cannot control a noxious weed unless the landowner/land occupier contributes materials, personnel, or other resources to the control effort. The only exceptions to this requirement are cases where the landowner/occupier “will not benefit materially or financially by the control or eradication of the noxious weed; or when the noxious weed infestation is on state-owned land not leased or under control of private interest.” (§152-6(e) HRS) This requirement for a landowner/occupier contribution made sense when agriculture in Hawaii was carried out by large landowners to avoid situations in which the State was fully providing weed control for a large agricultural interest. However, now, the requirement prevents DAB from identifying an area infested with a noxious weed and carrying out a control program that will benefit the public generally, as well as agricultural, natural, and cultural resources, unless each landowner/occupier in that area enters into a cooperative agreement and provides materials, personnel, or other resources.

Finally, we note that HB 1931 HD2 does not propose adding definitions in statute for the terms “limited distribution” and “very limited distribution.” We also note that the state of Washington, which has a similar noxious weed listing process, does not include similar definitions in its statute. The lack of a statutory definition is a sensible approach, as what constitutes “limited distribution” and “very limited distribution” will vary among the species of noxious weeds. For instance, “limited distribution” for a grass or ground covering weed could be very different than for a woody species. Leaving this determination to the experts at DAB will allow flexibility to address the biological characteristics of the different noxious weed species.

We hope this Committee will support HB1931 HD2 and the attempt to modernize the State’s noxious weed laws and to revitalize noxious weed control efforts at the State level. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and our support for this bill.

Aloha,



Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow

**Officers**

Kaipo Kekona  
State President



Christian Zuckerman  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

Kelii Gannet  
Kohala, Hawai'i

East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta  
Kona, Hawai'i

Gina Lind  
Hāna, Maui

Mason Scharer  
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahālāwai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy  
Moloka'i

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

India Clark  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Rachel LaDrig  
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports HB1931.**

HB1931 modernizes Hawaii's biosecurity infrastructure by establishing a State Noxious Weed Coordinator and an agile, science-based process for managing invasive plant threats. By establishing a State Noxious Weed Coordinator, the bill ensures dedicated leadership and oversight in safeguarding our lands from invasive plant species. This role will be pivotal in coordinating efforts and resources across various stakeholders, enhancing the effectiveness of weed management programs.

Transitioning noxious weed list updates from a slow rulemaking process to an order-based system allows the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to respond in "real-time" to the numerous new species entering the state annually. The inclusion of public proposals in the process is a progressive move that encourages community involvement and leverages local knowledge to address the unique challenges faced by different regions in the state.

While HFU supports strengthened penalties to deter negligence, we urge the Legislature to ensure that the Department provides technical assistance and cost-sharing for small-scale producers so that those with limited capital are not unfairly penalized for infestations originating from neighboring unmanaged lands or public corridors.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:07:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice K T Shiira	Shimanchu Mamuyaa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.

Date of Hearing: 4 March, 2026

To: Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB1931 HD2**, Relating to Agriculture

Aloha,

Hawai'i Food+ Policy is writing in **strong support** of **HB1931 HD2**, which modernizes Hawai'i's noxious weed law by establishing a State Noxious Weed Coordinator, clarifying the authority of the Department and Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity, and creating a transparent, science-based process for updating, classifying, and enforcing the State's noxious weed list.

Hawai'i's agricultural sector and natural ecosystems remain highly vulnerable to invasive species. Despite these ongoing threats, Hawai'i's official noxious weed list has not been updated since 1992, limiting its effectiveness as a management and regulatory tool. Estimates from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) indicate that new non-native species become established in Hawaii approximately every 18 days, emphasizing the urgency of maintaining an effective and current regulatory framework.

Early detection and prevention are critical to supporting local agriculture. Research and management guidance show that early detection and rapid response (EDRR) is one of the most effective strategies for controlling invasive weeds and preventing widespread infestation. By creating a clear, legally structured pathway for updating the noxious weed list and strengthening enforcement provisions, this measure provides the State with appropriate tools to act before threats become unmanageable.

This also promotes transparency and community participation by allowing submission of proposals to provide input on noxious weed designations. Those working directly on the land are often the first to see emerging threats in which this measure can create a clear pathway to inform biosecurity action.

Strengthening Hawai'i's noxious weed framework supports not only agricultural productivity but also the protection of conservation districts, natural resources, and cultural landscapes foundational to Hawai'i's communities. Clear legal authority combined with public transparency ensures that invasive species management remains both effective and accountable. For these reasons, **I urge this committee to pass HB1931 HD2.**

Mahalo,

Brandon Kinard & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

---

[1] U.S. National Invasive Species Information Center. *Control Mechanisms & Early Detection and Rapid Response*. <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/subject/control-mechanisms>

**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2026, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food system. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:30:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Bo Breda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:31:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Peter Wilson and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:32:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is JJ Wassell and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
JJ Wassell

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:40:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D., and I am testifying in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1931 HD2.

From a scientific perspective, I understand that our insular ecosystems are uniquely vulnerable to invasive species. From a cultural perspective, as a Native Hawaiian, I know that the health of our ‘āina is inseparable from the health of our people. Invasive plants like miconia and fireweed don't just harm our watersheds and agriculture; they choke out the native forests that hold our stories and our traditions.

Our current noxious weed list, last updated in 1992, is a relic of a bygone era. In those 30+ years, hundreds of new species have arrived, and we are playing a perpetual game of catch-up that threatens our food security, water security, and cultural integrity.

HB1931 HD2 brings our biosecurity defenses into the 21st century by implementing expert recommendations. It is a comprehensive update that provides:

- Dedicated staff (the Noxious Weed Coordinator) to coordinate a proactive response.
- A transparent, science-based process for the public and experts to nominate new threats for review.
- Strengthened enforcement tools and penalties to ensure compliance and deter the spread of these destructive species.

This bill is an investment in our future. It will save hundreds of millions in future damages, but more importantly, it will protect the integrity of our ecosystems and our cultural heritage for generations to come. We cannot afford to wait any longer.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1931 HD2.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kealii Pang, Ph.D.  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i



**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:45:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1931 HD2 would move Hawaii's responsiveness to invasive plant species to a new and promising level. Please pass this bill.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:04:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!!!

Mahalo!

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 7:38:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to better fight invasive weeds from coming to Hawaii, and controlling/eliminating them when they sneak through.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:25:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel M Mitchell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Samuel Mitchell and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, exacerbating the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasive-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:42:09 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
tia pearson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would implement longstanding recommendations to boost our ability to fight back against invasive weeds and plants, and the threats they pose to our food security, water security, ecological and cultural integrity, climate resilience, and economy. It would provide for dedicated staff who can track and coordinate weed response efforts; mechanisms for the public to identify new invasive plants for the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to take action on; additional DAB authorities to prevent and address invasive plant infestations; and strengthened compliance and enforcement tools, including added penalties.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:09:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kate Paine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support healthy ecosystems in control of invasive species that tie into water and food security.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:28:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Keala Fung and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Keala Fung, Honolulu

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:34:04 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patti Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Please PASS HB1931 HD2.

Thank you.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 10:41:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Guy Kudo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Please PASS this bill.

Thank you.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:51:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dr. Osa Maiyanne Adaján, 1L Student, William S. Richardson School of Law

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 6:43:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Anton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Chris Marie Anton and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Chris Marie Anton

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:30:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**It's time to stop rolling out the red carpet to invasive plants!**

**Delaying, deferring, and being in denial, have allowed invasive plants to thrive for decades - centuries even. They threaten our food security, water security, ecological and cultural integrity, climate resilience, and economy.**

**Please support this bill.**

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:38:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Invasive plants have destroyed so much of the islands already; but this bill will mitigate the existing ones, and identify and prevent new ones from thriving.**

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:41:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Nanea Lo and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2.

Me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Workers Center Board Member

Clean Elections Hawai'i Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

350 Hawai'i Member

Carbon Cashback Hawai'i Member

Hawai'i Tax Fairness Coalition Member

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:18:02 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
bobbie becker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this long overdue legislation. As a coffee farmer on Maui I have been directly affected by multiple invasive weeds and plants on my farm. I believe that increased surveillance at our ports would help to save our native plants and birds, and reduce the risks to our food security.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:23:41 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl hendrickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will help implement recommendations to fight back invasive plants & the threats they pose to our food & water security, ecological & cultural integrity and climate resilience & integrity.

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 8:46:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shay Chan Hodges

Maui, Hawaii

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:19:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure is a positive step to protect native species and ecosystems. Please PASS!

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:16:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy.

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marcia Kemble Makiki

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:30:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marshall Hung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Marshall Hung and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marshall Hung



**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:45:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB1931 HD2.

From a fiscal perspective, this bill represents a prudent investment in prevention. Invasive plant species impose long-term costs on the State through impacts to agriculture, watershed protection, wildfire risk, tourism-dependent landscapes, and ongoing control efforts. Hawai‘i’s noxious weed list has not been updated since 1992, limiting the State’s ability to respond early—when management is most cost-effective.

HB1931 HD2 modernizes the listing process, establishes a State Noxious Weed Coordinator to improve efficiency and coordination, and creates a transparent, science-based system for regularly updating the list. By prioritizing early detection and rapid response, the bill helps prevent small infestations from becoming large-scale, multi-million-dollar control problems.

The modest administrative improvements proposed in this measure will help reduce future expenditures by avoiding far greater costs associated with widespread invasive plant management. Prevention and early action are consistently the most fiscally responsible biosecurity strategies.

For these reasons, I urge your support of HB1931 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Chuck Chimera

Honoka‘a, Hawaii

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 5:30:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christy Shaver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Christy Shaver and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against the introduction of even more invasive plant species to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of invasive plant-infested landscapes that may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Christy Shaver

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:20:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Isaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is [your name] and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Bianca Isaki, Kane`ohe

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 6:22:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Frederick Smith. I live in the Kealakekua ahupa'a and am a graduate student in marine science and policy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. I am writing in **strong support of HB1931 HD2.**

**HB1931 HD2 is fiscally responsible and will save the State money in the long run.** Hawai'i's noxious weed list has not been updated since 1992, even though harmful invasive plants continue to arrive and spread statewide. When these species establish, the costs of management shift to the State through watershed degradation, increased wildfire risk, agricultural losses, infrastructure impacts, and expensive long-term control efforts. Static noxious weed lists, like the one from 1992, are simply inadequate to address new and evolving threats to our farms, properties, and natural places. Modernizing this framework is an essential, prevention-focused investment that reduces future costs and protects the State's resources.

By modernizing the listing process and establishing a State Noxious Weed Coordinator, this bill enables the State to act early, when intervention is dramatically less costly than waiting until infestations require multi-million-dollar control or restoration projects. The bill also improves administrative efficiency by creating a clear, science-based process for public proposals, expert review, and annual list updates, ensuring agencies have the timely information needed to prevent high-risk species from entering commerce or spreading into sensitive areas.

Strengthened enforcement authority, clearer penalties, and streamlined procedures will help avoid future liabilities and reduce the burden on DLNR, DOA, and county partners who currently shoulder the cost of responding to preventable invasive plant problems.

For these reasons, **HB1931 HD2 is a prudent investment in prevention**, and I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Frederick Smith

Captain Cook, HI



**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:59:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Elena Arinaga and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Elena Arinaga

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 12:00:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Chon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Angela and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against the introduction of even more invasive plant species to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of invasive plant-infested landscapes that may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Angela Chon

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 12:44:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Zacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Keri Zacher and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Keri Zacher

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 12:54:48 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANE CHOY FUJIMURA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

/Cmd+VAloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Diane Choy Fujimura and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Diane Choy Fujimura



**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:49:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Ellison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Mina Ellison and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mina Ellison

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:07:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Andrew Isoda and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:27:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

**I write in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Beth McDermott

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:27:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

**I write in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state’s noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB’s Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Beth McDermott

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:27:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breanne Fong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Breanne Fong and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to **PASS** this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Breanne Fong

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:36:11 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Sydney Chung and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. **For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.**

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on with invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1931 HD2. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sydney Chung

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:45:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Stephanie Chang and I **STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.**

We need to do everything we can to protect against invasives. This is the foundation of our water, our locally grown food, our industries, and our ecosystem which makes Hawai‘i Hawai‘i.

Thank you for taking action on this.

me ke aloha,

Stephanie Chang, Kaimuki  
House District 19, Senate District 10

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 6:46:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Blair	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:12:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Oba	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Committee Members,

My name is Kyle Oba and I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Invasive species, including noxious weeds and plants, threaten tremendous harm to our water security, agricultural operations, ecological and cultural integrity, recreational activities, climate resilience, and local economy. For example, miconia and guava have already displaced entire native ecosystems, preventing our drinking water aquifers from recharging and contributing to flooding and runoff events; highly invasive and toxic fireweed threatens to upend our livestock industry; and cane and guinea grasses are a bane for both farmers as well as backyard gardeners, and exacerbate the risks of wildfires throughout the islands.

Unfortunately, despite a litany of hard lessons about the dangers of invasive plants, and despite longstanding recommendations made by experts and stakeholders to shore up our defenses against even more invasive plant introductions to our islands, the state's noxious weed program has not been updated since 1992.

This bill would accordingly provide much-needed updates to our beleaguered noxious weed program, providing it with dedicated staff, allowing for a public alert process to submit newly found invasive plant species for follow-up assessment and action, and giving the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) additional regulatory and enforcement authorities. These critical adjustments, consistent with the recommendations of DAB's Noxious Weed Working Group, could save hundreds of millions of dollars or more in damages and remedial costs; more importantly, however, this bill will protect our future generations from the harshest consequences of living on invasives-infested landscapes -- which may be all but inevitable under the current status quo.

Accordingly, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS this measure. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kyle Oba



**HB-1931-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:18:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/4/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malia Marquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Malia Marquez and I strongly support HB 1931 HD2.

HB1931 HD2 would implement longstanding recommendations to boost our ability to fight back against invasive weeds and plants, and the threats they pose to our food security, water security, ecological and cultural integrity, climate resilience, and economy. Please SUPPORT HB1931 HD2.

Mahalo for your time on this serious matter,

Malia Marquez