

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

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

Before the Senate Committees on  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
and  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
10:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2048  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 2048 prohibits the sale, barter, or donation of any pest-infested item or material; authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) to quarantine, treat, or destroy pest-infested items or materials; and imposes penalties on individuals who sell, barter, or donate pest-infested items or materials. **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.**

The Department supports banning the sale, barter, or donation of any materials infested or infected with pests. This ban would greatly decrease the spread of invasive species within the State, making containment and control easier and lowering costs linked to managing a growing infestation.

The Department supports provisions that address violations of this measure, including DAB's authority to quarantine, treat, or destroy pests or materials infested with pests, along with penalties for violations. These measures should discourage those who might trade in such pests.

The Department also supports the measure's exemptions for research and biocontrol agents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

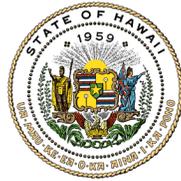
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

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

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

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



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

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

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2048  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairs Keohokalole and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Richards, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2048 relating to invasive species. This measure prohibits the sale, barter, or donation of any pest-infested item or material. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) to quarantine, treat, or destroy pest-infested items or materials. Imposes penalties on individuals who sell, barter, or donate a pest-infested items or materials. The Department is in support of this measure and offers comments.

The Department offers the following comments for clarity. On page 3, line 3, the Department suggests revising HRS 150A- (a)(3) for consistency to read as follows:

- (3) Prohibited from being sold or otherwise made available to the public under this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

The Department believes that sections HRS 150A- (b)(1) and (b)(2) should be amended as follows:

- (b) The prohibition in subsection (a) shall not apply to any item or material that:
- (1) The department provides access for research or testing pursuant to an appropriate permit issued by the department; or
  - (2) Is infested or infected with a biocontrol agent transferred pursuant to an appropriate permit issued by the department.

Testimony of Sharon Hurd

February 11, 2026

Page 2 of 2

The Department believes that these additions are necessary to clarify the intent of these sections. The Department believes that for (b)(1), a valid permit documents the move and allows the department to ensure that the research or testing facility is capable of appropriately containing the pest. For (b)(2), the Department believes the intent is for pests that are infected with a biocontrol agent, as opposed to a biocontrol agent itself being considered a pest.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.



The Senate  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
10:00 am Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of SB 2048**

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in strong support of SB 2048 *Relating to Invasive Species***. This bill prohibits the sale of any merchandise that is infested or infected with a pest, is itself a pest, or is prohibited from sale under chapter 150A, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), makes pest-infested merchandise subject to treatment or destruction, and makes sellers of such merchandise subject to a civil penalty. This bill will protect consumers who unknowingly purchase merchandise that is infested with a pest and bring it back to their homes and communities.

This prohibition set out in SB 2048 is different than the authority set out in section 4-72-5, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), adopted in January 2025. The existing section 4-72-5 HAR allows the Chief of the Plant Quarantine Branch to stop the sale and/or quarantine pest-infested merchandise on a case-by-case basis. SB 2048 prohibits the sale of pest-infested merchandise in general. It lets nurseries and other retailers know that they are responsible for maintaining their available stock and selling pest-free items. At this time, there is no statute that places that responsibility on the sellers.

The language also clearly states that the State of Hawaii is not responsible for the costs of quarantine or treatment of pest-infested merchandise within the State, similar to the language used for items imported into the State that are found to be pest-infested in section 150A-5(7) HRS.

We note that section 150A-2 HRS defines “pest” as “any animal, insect, disease agent or other organism in any stage of development that is detrimental or potentially harmful to agriculture, or horticulture, or animal or public health, or natural resources including native biota or has an

adverse effect on the environment as determined by the board [of agriculture and biosecurity].” (emphasis added) Because the Board of Agriculture and Biosecurity can determine what is and is not considered a pest, the Board should consider making rules to clarify or designate which high-priority pests SB 2048 might apply to.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support SB 2048 and for your consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

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

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie Easley".

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



**LIBERTARIAN**  
PARTY of HAWAII  
**IN OPPOSITION TO SB2048**

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii strongly opposes SB2048. While protecting agriculture from invasive species is a legitimate concern, this measure expands government authority in ways that infringe on personal liberties, disrupt voluntary exchange, and impose coercive controls on private property and peaceful transactions.

The bill creates broad new criminal and civil penalties for farmers, gardeners, hobbyists, and small vendors alike, who unknowingly or incidentally transfer materials that may harbor pests. It empowers the Department to seize, quarantine, treat, or outright destroy private property without requiring a finding of intent, negligence, or actual widespread harm. Such preemptive destruction of personal belongings or goods based on suspicion alone violates the principle that government force should only be used against proven aggression or clear victim harm.

By criminalizing the simple act of selling, bartering, or donating potentially infested items, the bill turns peaceful, consensual interactions into offenses, undermining free-market dynamics. Small-scale producers, backyard growers, and those simply sharing with their community will face disproportionate risk and compliance burdens, while larger operations with resources to navigate inspections and certifications will be favored. This tilts the playing field away from individual initiative and toward centralized control, the opposite of how prosperity and innovation thrive.

The authority to quarantine or destroy property also lacks sufficient safeguards for due process and transparency. Property owners may have limited recourse before irreversible actions are taken. This arbitrary enforcement would erode fairness and predictability under the law. **The government does not have unchecked power to confiscate or destroy the fruits of private labor** without clear evidence of imminent, substantial danger and robust procedural protections.

Existing tools already address biosecurity threats without this blanket prohibition on everyday transactions. SB2048 unnecessarily escalates state intervention, treating private citizens as suspects rather than rights-holders. We urge the Committee to reject SB2048. Preserve the freedom to use, share, and trade personal property peacefully; limit government to proportionate, evidence-based measures that respect due process; and avoid expanding coercive powers that punish the innocent.

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | [LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com) | (808)824-LPHI



# SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

## SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

February 11, 2026

10:00 AM

Conference Room 229

**In SUPPORT of**  
**SB2760: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**  
**SB2048: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

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Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Keohokālole, Vice Chair Richards, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2760 and SB2048**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive species 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 pests 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 these measures, which would systemically mitigate the threats posed by invasive species to our islands and our future.

**SB2760 proposes a range of common-sense and much-needed fixes to numerous gaps in the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity's (DAB's) statutory authorities, and our biosecurity framework in general.** This includes a clarification and expansion of the entities that DAB should work with, to meet our biosecurity challenges more comprehensively. It also expands the types of materials whose movement DAB can regulate – a major need, especially considering the various ways that invasive species might be introduced to or spread across our islands. Moreover, it allows interim biosecurity rules to be valid for two years, rather than one – an appropriate time extension, given the amount of time it takes to adopt permanent administrative rules to replace “temporary” interim rule provisions.

**Meanwhile, SB2048 is another common-sense measure to prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products that are infested with pests.** There is no reason not to pass this measure, especially as the knowing sale of infested plants and mulch products have

undoubtedly contributed to if not driven the spread of little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles across multiple islands. This bill will make clear that DAB has the authority and responsibility to intervene in such situations, before the unscrupulous sale of pests and infested products creates yet another invasive species crisis.

Therefore, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** these bills. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.



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)

February 11, 2026

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2048**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokalole, Vice-Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

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 provides comments on SB 2048**, which addresses the sale, transfer, and distribution of pest-infested items or materials as part of the State's broader invasive species prevention efforts.

HFB recognizes the serious and ongoing impacts invasive species have on Hawai'i's agricultural producers, environment, and communities. Farmers and ranchers bear many of the long-term costs associated with pest establishment, including increased production expenses, lost productivity, and land impacts that are difficult to reverse. Measures that reduce the spread of invasive species are therefore critically important.

At the same time, SB 2048 would apply broadly to a wide range of items and activities, including situations where individuals or businesses may not have knowledge of an infestation despite taking reasonable precautions. Many agricultural producers, nurseries, and plant sellers already operate under compliance agreements, inspection protocols, and best management practices intended to reduce pest risk. Clear alignment between enforcement actions and existing compliance frameworks will be important to ensure that responsible operators are not unintentionally penalized.

As this measure moves forward, HFB encourages careful consideration of how enforcement discretion, notice, and compliance expectations are structured and communicated. A balanced approach that differentiates between negligent behavior and

good-faith efforts to comply will help maintain cooperation, trust, and participation in the State's biosecurity system.

HFB appreciates the Legislature's continued attention to invasive species prevention and respectfully submits these comments for consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**Hawai'i Forest Association**  
 7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
 Suite A-143A, #249  
 Honolulu, HI 96825  
 Phone: 808/933/9411  
 Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

**Date:** 02/10/26

**TO:** AEN Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, CPN Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, AEN Committee members DeCoite, Rhoads, Awa, and CPN Committee members Lamosao, McKelvey, Awa

**FROM:** Hawaii Forest Association (HFA)

**SUBJECT:** In Support of SB2048 Relating to Invasive Species

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Keohokalole and AEN/CPN Committee members,

On behalf of the Hawaii Forest Association(HFA) Directors and members, please support SB2048 Relating to Invasive Species.

The State must maintain and practice its right to inspect, treat, quarantine and destroy materials entering the State from the continental U.S., or materials moving between islands, that are deemed pest-infested or pose a threat to Hawaii's biosecurity. Imposing penalties on individuals who knowingly or repeatedly sell or barter infested materials is an appropriate repercussion for individuals who disregard the wellbeing of Hawaii's ecosystems, natural resources and the livelihoods tied to them.

Monitoring for and protecting against invasive pests helps to defend our agricultural lands, forested lands, ranch and pasture lands, and the economies, jobs and well-being of thousands of Hawaii residents tied to all three. Proactively protecting our islands and resources from invasive species introduction and transportation is a responsibility we have to the future generations who will rely on those resources.

For these reasons HFA hopes that you will support SB2048.

Mahalo,

Irene Sprecher, President  
 Hawaii Forest Association

*HFA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy.*

**HFA Board of Directors**

Officers: President Irene Sprecher, Vice President Taylor Coons, Secretary Nicholas Koch  
 Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Doug, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh, Aaron Hammer, Tawn Speetjens

HFA's members include woodworkers, landowners, sawmillers, foresters, educators, researchers, arborists, students and more.	50% of HFA members are business owners, employing nearly 150 people across the State.	HFA actively manages five restoration and/or native plant demonstration sites between Hawai'i island and Oahu.
HFA members and their employees reside and work in 64 of the 76 Hawaii House and Senate districts.	HFA members reside across the Hawaiian islands, with a majority of members on Hawai'i island and Oahu, as well as members located in the continental US, Canada and Guam.	HFA, with its sister organization, the Hawaii Forest Institute, engages in regular outreach and education.



February 09, 2026

Subject: **SB2048**, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Tim Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment; Chair Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Carol Fukunaga, and the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

We are writing in support of **SB2048**, which seeks to better regulate the gap that has allowed many invasive species to enter into the state of Hawai'i through minimally managed imports (primarily through plant nurseries and other retailers), and the subsequent range spread of such species by further distribution

Hawai'i today is often referred to as the "Endangered Species Capital of the World" (DLNR, *Rare Plant Species, 2026*)<sup>1</sup>, with the greatest landmass to endangered species ratio. Not only do invasive species play an integral role in this crisis, but they also often bring in new human-health concerns through infrastructure damage, disease, and crop destruction. Plant importations have been the vector for the introduction of many unintentional invasives such as the well established CRB and the coqui frog which threaten crops and Hawai'i's reliant tourism industry.

Despite the recognition of such threats, **SB2048** points to the fact that our current plant nursery regulation programs focus primarily on meeting the exportation requirements of plants leaving the state to enter a new one - yet no mirrored regulations are well enforced here on our own importations from out-of-state. **SB2048** is an important pillar that needs to be added to our foundational defense against new invasives and the early elimination of such species before they become irreversibly established.

Finally, this legislation would support many of the outlined and sanctioned goals premised within the 2025 (FY24)<sup>2</sup> Invasive Species Legislative Report by supporting universal interagency communication, planning, and management approaches to curtailing the spread of new species, and continuing the action against introductions and distributions.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of SB2048,  
The Food+ Policy Team  
#fixourfoodsystem

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<sup>1</sup> *Rare Plant Species*. (2026). Retrieved February 9, 2026, from <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/rare-plants/species/>

<sup>2</sup> *2025 (FY24) Invasive Species Legislative Report*. (2025). Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

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**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.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:01:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John & Rita Shockley	Testifying for Free Access Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

The Free Access Coalition supports SB2048. We need to control the spread of invasive species that are a threat to our island environment.

[SB2048](#) prohibits the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests. This measure clarifies DAB's authority and responsibility to intervene before the sale of infested plants, mulch, or other materials leads to another invasive species crisis.

Mahalo for your time.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:00:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The goal of preventing the spread of invasive species such as little fire ants and coqui frogs is important and broadly shared. Hawaii’s unique ecosystems and communities deserve protection from high-impact pests, and addressing known pathways, such as the sale of infested nursery products, is a legitimate public interest.

However, SB2048 raises serious concerns about proportionality, due process, and safeguards against government overreach that should be addressed before advancing this bill.

As written, the bill establishes a strict prohibition on the sale or distribution of any “pest-infested” item, paired with broad enforcement powers allowing quarantine, treatment, or destruction of property at the owner’s expense, while explicitly denying compensation for economic loss. These authorities are granted without clear statutory standards, notice requirements, or an opportunity to cure non-willful violations. This creates a real risk that small nurseries, farmers, community plant swaps, and good-faith sellers could face severe penalties for inadvertent or low-risk infractions.

Effective invasive-species control should focus on intentional misconduct and high-risk pathways, not impose blanket liability that discourages local food production, small businesses, and community resilience. Enforcement tools should be graduated, transparent, and fair, emphasizing education, remediation, and compliance assistance before punitive action, especially for first-time or non-negligent violations.

To strengthen the bill while respecting civil liberties and economic fairness, the Legislature should consider amendments that:

- Clearly define “infested” using objective, science-based thresholds;
- Require notice and an opportunity to cure before penalties or destruction;
- Distinguish willful or negligent violations from good-faith mistakes;
- Limit uncompensated destruction to cases of demonstrable, imminent risk; and
- Prioritize education and best-practice certification over punitive enforcement.

With appropriate guardrails, Hawaii can protect its ecosystems without granting unchecked authority that undermines due process, small enterprises, and public trust. I respectfully urge the Legislature to address these concerns before moving SB2048 forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:34:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 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

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:10:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Wow, I sure hope this is going to pass this time. The CRB is decimating our palms, and the LFA and infesting our land. We have got to STOP them NOW. Let's not invite other invasive species in!

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:16:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

February 09, 2026

Subject: **SB2048**, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair Tim Richards, and the Senate committee on Agriculture and Environment

I am writing in support of **SB2048**, which seeks to better regulate the gap that has allowed many invasive species to enter into the state of Hawai'i through minimally managed imports (primarily through plant nurseries and other retailers), and the subsequent range spread of such species by further distribution

Hawai'i today is often referred to as the "Endangered Species Capital of the World" ([dlnr, Rare Plant Species, 2026](#)) with the greatest landmass-to-endangered species ratio. Not only do invasive species play an integral role in this crisis, but they also often bring in new human-health concerns through infrastructure damage, disease, and crop destruction. Plant importations have been the vector for the introduction of many unintentional invasives, such as the well-established CRB and the coqui frog, which threaten crops and Hawai'i's reliant tourism industry.

Despite the recognition of such threats, **SB2048** points to the fact that our current plant nursery regulation programs focus primarily on meeting the exportation requirements of plants leaving the state to enter a new one - yet no mirrored regulations are well enforced here on our own importations from out-of-state. **SB2048** is an important pillar that needs to be added to our foundational defense against new invasives and the early elimination of such species before they become irreversibly established.

Finally, this legislation would support many of the outlined and sanctioned goals premised within the 2025 (FY24) Invasive Species Legislative Report by supporting universal interagency communication, planning, and management approaches to curtailing the spread of new species and continuing the action against introductions and distributions.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of SB2048,  
Katelyn Pratte

Resources

[2025 \(FY24\) Invasive Species Legislative Report. \(2025\). Hawaii Invasive Species Council.](#)

[Rare Plant Species. \(2026\). Retrieved February 9, 2026, from https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/rare-plants/species/](https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/ecosystems/rare-plants/species/)

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:52:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lindenmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing today in **strong support of SB2048**.

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, such as plants and mulch. The sale of infested materials has played a significant role in the spread of destructive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, yet the Department of Agriculture still has not adopted rules to make this highly harmful conduct illegal. This bill makes clear that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity has both the authority and responsibility to intervene before unscrupulous business practices lead to yet another invasive species crisis.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.  
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:53:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rodar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

My name is [Jodi Rodar and I am writing in **strong support of SB2048**.

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, such as plants and mulch. The sale of infested materials has played a significant role in the spread of destructive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, yet the Department of Agriculture still has not adopted rules to make this highly harmful conduct illegal. This bill makes clear that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity has both the authority and responsibility to intervene before unscrupulous business practices lead to yet another invasive species crisis.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Rodar

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:59:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:04:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 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:

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai'i's environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:17:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2048, which prohibits the sale, barter, or donation of pest-infested items and authorizes the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to quarantine, treat, or destroy infested materials.

The movement of plants is one of the highest-risk pathways for the spread of invasive species in Hawai‘i, including little fire ants. Infested potted plants continue to be a source of new infestations across the State, allowing pests to spread into residential neighborhoods, farms, and natural areas.

Currently, nurseries are able to sell plants that are infested with little fire ants, placing unsuspecting consumers and entire communities at risk. SB2048 provides the Department with the necessary authority to prevent this pathway of spread and holds sellers accountable, while encouraging the use of best management practices within the nursery industry. This bill is a critical step toward strengthening Hawai‘i’s biosecurity system and protecting our environment, agriculture, and quality of life.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2048.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:34:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 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 Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D., and I write in strong support of SB2048. I am a retired federal biologist with twenty five years of experience addressing invasive species in Hawai‘i and the Mariana Islands.

Hawai‘i’s history shows the severe damage invasive species cause after establishment. Invasive pests degrade native ecosystems, threaten food security, increase pesticide use, and harm cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Prevention at the point of sale stands among the most effective strategies to stop new infestations before irreversible harm occurs.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, including plants and mulch. The commercial sale of infested materials has driven the spread of destructive pests such as little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles. Despite these impacts, clear enforceable rules remain absent. This measure affirms the authority and responsibility of the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to intervene before negligent or unethical business practices trigger additional invasive species crises.

From my professional experience, delayed action at points of distribution consistently increases long term ecological and economic costs. SB2048 provides a direct and practical safeguard where prevention works best.

I respectfully urge you to PASS SB2048 to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Retired Federal Biologist

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:30:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

My name is Bo Breda, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2048**.

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, such as plants and mulch. The sale of infested materials has played a significant role in the spread of destructive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, yet the Department of Agriculture still has not adopted rules to make this highly harmful conduct illegal. This bill makes clear that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity has both the authority and responsibility to intervene before unscrupulous business practices lead to yet another invasive species crisis.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:31:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Wilson, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2048**.

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, such as plants and mulch. The sale of infested materials has played a significant role in the spread of destructive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, yet the Department of Agriculture still has not adopted rules to make this highly harmful conduct illegal. This bill makes clear that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity has both the authority and responsibility to intervene before unscrupulous business practices lead to yet another invasive species crisis.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:33:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of SB2048.**

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

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I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Jody Smith

Honolulu 96825

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:35:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Lorenzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Gabbard am e Keohokālole, aloha e Vice Chairs Richards am e Fukunaga, am e members of the Committees,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2048**.

Hawai‘i’s history has shown us how devastating invasive species can be once they become established. Invasive pests have harmed our native ecosystems, threatened food security, increased pesticide use, and damaged cultural practices and livelihoods across the islands. Preventing the spread of invasive species at the point of sale is one of the most effective ways to stop new infestations before they cause irreversible harm.

SB2048 would prohibit the sale of invasive pests or products infested with pests, such as plants and mulch. The sale of infested materials has played a significant role in the spread of destructive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, yet the Department of Agriculture still has not adopted rules to make this highly harmful conduct illegal. This bill makes clear that the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity has both the authority and responsibility to intervene before unscrupulous business practices lead to yet another invasive species crisis.

I respectfully urge you to **PASS SB2048** to protect Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, public health, and communities.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Anne M. Lorenzo

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:02:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 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 Chairs Gabbard and Keohokālole, Vice Chairs Richards and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am in strong support of SB2048 and I hope you do the right thing and pass this bill.

Thank you.

**SB-2048**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:07:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2026 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Koster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family supports this bill because our state needs stronger measures to control and eradicate damaging invasive species. This common sense bill will make it easier to fight these damaging species BEFORE they get out of hand.