



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2488**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL.**

SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Hearing Date, Time: Wednesday, 2/11/2026, 1:00 PM, Room Number: 224

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (“Department”) requests that this measure be  
2 considered as a vehicle to provide this needed funding so long as it does not supplant the  
3 priorities and requests outlined in the Governors executive budget request.

4 **Department Position:** The Department supports this measure.

5 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Vector Control Branch,  
6 provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

7 SB2488 Establishes the position of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Executive  
8 Director and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR),  
9 rather than the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), for the HISC for fiscal year  
10 2026-2027. The measure requires a report to the Legislature.

11 The Department supports HISC and its programs to prevent, reduce, and eliminate  
12 invasive species in Hawai'i. Vector-borne diseases such as dengue fever, Zika, chikungunya,  
13 lyme disease, and many others are transmitted via animals and insects that are invasive to  
14 Hawai'i. Vector-borne diseases are increasing worldwide, often exacerbated by the impacts of

1 climate change. To protect Hawai'i from diseases transmitted by invasive species, efforts must  
2 be prioritized to prevent their spread and establishment.

3 HISC plays a critical role as a cross-jurisdictional organization that coordinates, supports,  
4 and funds research while directing invasive species control activities. These activities are  
5 essential in the fight against organisms that harm public and environmental health.  
6 Establishment of an Executive Director position provides HISC with a position of appropriate  
7 level to provide leadership, coordination and management to address the complex technical  
8 and administrative issues associated with the council.

9

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**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 WATER, LAND, CULTURE, AND THE  
ARTS AND AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2026  
1:00 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEO CONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2488  
RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2488 relating to the Hawaii invasive species council. This measure establishes the position of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) executive director, transfers HISC's funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the Department of Land and Natural Resources in accordance with its current administration and requires a report to the legislature.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (Department) supports this measure. Establishing a HISC executive director will ensure clear accountability and provide a designated lead responsible for overseeing HISC's daily operations and translating the council's decisions into actionable plans. Furthermore, transferring HISC's funding for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will preserve administrative clarity over HISC's expenditures, as HISC remains administratively housed within DLNR until 2030. Lastly, pursuant to section 141-3.5(b)(1) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Department is tasked with leading and coordinating the State's invasive pest control and eradication biosecurity efforts. Establishing a HISC executive director will help ensure that HISC's programs will effectively support the Department's biosecurity responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify to this measure.

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 Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
1:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 2488  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 2488 establishes the position of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Executive Director; appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department), rather than the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), for the HISC for fiscal year 2026-2027; and requires a report to the Legislature. **The Department strongly supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department supports HISC's restructuring of support staff, as it will help smooth HISC's transition to DAB as an attached agency. Currently, the Department's Division of Forestry and Wildlife provides HISC with administrative support through the Invasive Species Coordinator. However, under this structure, the Invasive Species Coordinator would stay with the Department when HISC moves to DAB. By creating the Executive Director position within HISC, the administering agency will be able to better manage the Council.

The Department also supports the appropriation of fiscal year 2026-2027 funds for HISC to the Department to ensure the funds are allocated to the jurisdiction where HISC is administered.

In consideration of SENATE BILL 2488 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Lastly, the Department supports requiring the HISC to submit a report to the Legislature. HISC has submitted an annual report to the Legislature since its establishment and will continue to do so. The report should include the HISC's findings, recommendations, and suggested legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of SB 2488**

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 2488**, *Relating to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council*. This bill provides fiscal year 2026-2027 funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) rather than the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), establishes the position of HISC Executive Director, and requires a report to the Legislature.

#### **Fiscal Year 2026-2027 HISC Funding**

Part VII of Act 236 (2025) transfers all functions and duties of HISC from DLNR to DAB, effective January 1, 2030. (Part VII & §47(6) Act 236 (2025)) HISC will remain attached to DLNR for administrative purposes until that time. However, section 42 of Act 236 transferred funding for fiscal year 2026-27 for HISC to DAB. Shifting funds from where HISC staff and programs are administered to DAB before a transition plan is in place creates additional responsibilities at DAB at a time when energy and attention must be paid to other changes made by Act 236. SB 2488 remedies this situation.

At this time, HISC has no statutory staff or positions. For years, DLNR has assigned its own civil service staff and has contracted additional project support to successfully carry out HISC duties and functions under chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). HISC's small staff carries out key invasive species prevention and response programs to extend the scope and reach of existing DAB, DLNR, Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Department of Transportation, and University of Hawaii biosecurity programs. HISC programs include [643PEST.org](http://643PEST.org) (an online reporting system developed and moderated by HISC), the Hawaii-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment screening and Plant Pono program (programs to promote the use of non-invasive plants by consumers and land managers), and the Port of Entry Monitoring Program (a program that conducts monitoring surveys for high impact invasive species at air and sea port properties).

Through its annual competitive grant program, HISC funding has also provided critical support for the island-based Invasive Species Committees and many other control and applied research projects on priority pests and weeds in each county. Sending HISC funds to DAB on July 1, 2026, to carry out the HISC duties in chapter 194, HRS, while HISC remains attached to DLNR, does not seem efficient or practical.

### **HISC Executive Director**

As noted above, HISC has no statutory staff or positions. HISC's day-to-day work and programs, as directed by the Council, with DLNR and DAB as co-chairs, are carried out by DLNR civil service and contract staff. To prepare for the transfer of HISC's functions and duties to DAB, we believe now is the time to establish a position under the HISC statute itself, which will transfer along with HISC's duties and responsibilities, as provided in Act 236. An Executive Director for HISC will provide institutional stability for HISC's statewide invasive species prevention and control programs and interagency coordination functions. Further, its transfer to DAB on January 1, 2030, would provide DAB with additional capacity focused on biosecurity.

Act 236 (2025) established extensive new biosecurity authorities, funding, and responsibilities for DAB. These activities will require significant administrative rulemaking, expansive new programs, and new staff and funding, that DAB must prioritize to achieve the timeline set by Act 236, while the HISC administrative functions are co-directed under the Council. An Executive Director will ensure that HISC's policy-level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments will continue uninterrupted.

As noted in SB 2488, at the September 2025 HISC meeting, the Council unanimously approved a request to pursue a new organizational structure for HISC's support staff, including a request that the legislature establish an Executive Director position. HB 2488 is carrying out that request.

### **Report to the Legislature**

HISC is charged with recommending changes to invasive species programs under section 194-2(d) HRS. Consistent with this responsibility, section 4 of SB 2488 requires a report to the Legislature that includes recommendations for proposed legislation to improve the State's administration of invasive species programs and policies, and to ensure HISC's responsibilities and duties continue to efficiently and effectively promote the prevention and control of invasive species in Hawaii. We believe this report could provide valuable recommendations for the Legislature to consider as HISC prepares for its transition to DAB.

We hope you will support SB 2488 to strengthen HISC by creating an Executive Director position and providing its fiscal year 2026-2027 funding to DLNR, its administrative agency. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and our support for SB 2488.

Aloha,

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

Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager

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

Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



February, 2026

To: Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB 2488 Relating to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council**

Aloha,

As a community advocate for the Hawai'i Food+ team, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 2488. This bill would provide leadership and funding for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, which helps protect the state's ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from harmful invasive species.

Invasive species are a huge and ongoing issue in Hawai'i. There have been efforts implemented to eradicate invasive species, but continued government support is needed to keep fighting this issue. Invasive species pose a serious threat to Hawai'i's agriculture, biodiversity, environmental health, and economy. Because of Hawai'i's geographical isolation, native species and plants did not develop defense mechanisms against predators or other species found on continents. Because of this, invasive species can displace native habitats, disrupt water resources, degrade forests, increase wildfire risk, and impose significant economic and cultural harm.

The number of people working for and contracted by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is limited. The ecosystems in Hawai'i are fragile and need ongoing protection from invasive species. Establishing an Executive Director position ensures that prevention and control programs continue without interruption as administrative changes occur between state departments. The creation of the Executive Director position provides stable leadership within the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council. This position would also give the Council the ability to coordinate with federal, state, county, and community partners.

By investing in leadership now, Hawai'i can reduce long-term costs associated with invasive species damage and control. Acting now and addressing infestations can help mitigate these issues before they become even worse. It is important to invest in safeguarding Hawai'i's ecosystems so future generations can continue living on these islands without threats from invasive species.

Mahalo,

Carlin McFadden & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

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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.



**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

February 11, 2026

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

**In SUPPORT of  
SB2488: RELATING TO HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

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Aloha Chair Lee, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2488**, which will allow the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and its partners can continue and expand its vital and foundational role in our biosecurity strategy without undue delay or disruption.

HISC and its programs and partners have proven to be incredibly effective at holding the line against invasive species in our islands, despite historically limited funding and a lack of support from other agencies assigned their own unique biosecurity roles (such as the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB)). For example, HISC and the island invasive species committees (ISCs) that it supports are able to combine specialized expertise, field knowledge, cross-agency coordination, and community relationships to support the all-hands-on-deck fight to monitor, manage, and eradicate myriad invasive species throughout Hawai'i, in areas ranging from forests to open spaces to even businesses and homes. Notably, these entities have been able to successfully prevent or eradicate dozens of outbreaks of invasive species on every island, from fireweed to pampas grass to little fire ants, saving us from untold millions of dollars in damages while protecting our environment, food security, cultural integrity, local businesses, and residents from the significant and potentially irreparable impacts of invasive pests.

While HISC received \$4.5M for FY26-27 in last year's Act 236, the same Act placed the responsibility of administering these funds with DAB, instead of with the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). This change in administration of funds may have been an oversight, as HISC remains administratively attached to the DLNR. **In any case, the transfer of funds to DAB threatens to disrupt critical biosecurity efforts carried out by HISC and its partners throughout the islands, potentially indefinitely, as DAB struggles to administer this HISC funding on top of the myriad other, well-documented challenges it is facing.**

This measure would accordingly return HISC funds back to the DLNR where they are normally housed, and where they have been successfully administered for years. Notably, unlike DAB, DLNR has the experience and expertise to understand HISC's activities and our biosecurity needs, and has staff specifically assigned to manage and distribute HISC

funding. Returning HISC funds to DLNR will ensure that its vital work can continue without undue delay or disruption.

In addition, this measure would further enhance HISC's work by establishing a dedicated executive director position to facilitate its mission. Often wearing multiple hats and subject to the state Sunshine Law, HISC's members themselves may not have the time or capacity to fulfill or coordinate the fulfillment of HISC's functions on their own, particularly given the Sunshine Law's constraints on their communications between meetings. A dedicated executive director as proposed by this bill can instead "do the work" between HISC meetings, and represent HISC in discussions and negotiations before reporting back to HISC for its executive decisionmaking. This transformative proposal will accordingly help to significantly build out HISC's proven-effective strategies, and give the foundation of our current biosecurity framework a much-needed shot in the arm.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committees to **PASS** SB2488. 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 WATER, LAND, CULTURE AND THE ARTS  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2488**  
RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Inouye and Richards, 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 supports SB 2488**, which clarifies the administration and expending authority for funding appropriated to the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) and establishes dedicated leadership capacity to strengthen statewide invasive species coordination.

HFB strongly supports the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council and agrees that dedicated leadership positions and sufficient administrative capacity are critical to improving accountability, coordination, and on-the-ground invasive species response efforts. Invasive species continue to impose significant costs on Hawai'i's agricultural producers, environment, and communities, and effective coordination across agencies and islands is essential.

Act 236 (Session Laws of Hawai'i 2025) established the transition of HISC from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity, effective January 1, 2030. Until that transition occurs, HISC remains housed, staffed, and administered within DLNR. SB 2488 appropriately aligns expending authority with the department currently responsible for implementing HISC programs during this interim period.

From an agricultural perspective, ensuring that funding, staffing, and administrative authority align with the current organizational structure supports continuity, reduces

inefficiencies, and enables HISC to deploy resources quickly and effectively to address invasive species threats affecting farms, ranches, and natural resources.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau continues to support the long-term integration of invasive species and biosecurity efforts with the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity when the transition established by Act 236 is completed. In the interim, SB 2488 provides a practical and fiscally responsible approach to ensuring that HISC can continue its important work without disruption.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy  
Supporting SB2488, Relating to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council  
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
February 11, 2026 at 1:00 pm  
Conference Room 224 and via Videoconference**

Dear Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and Members of the Committee:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify today. The Nature Conservancy (TNC) Hawai'i and Palmyra supports SB2488, which establishes the position of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Executive Director and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), rather than the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB), for the HISC for fiscal year 2026-2027.

HISC is a cross-departmental partnership that coordinates statewide strategies to prevent, detect, and control invasive species threats that endanger Hawai'i's biodiversity, agriculture, economy, and natural resources. Hawai'i's native species evolved in extreme isolation, making them particularly vulnerable to aggressive invasive plants, animals, and pathogens introduced through global travel and trade. Maintaining a strong, unified, and science-driven invasive species response is essential to protecting the Hawai'i's economic stability.

As the State prepares for the administrative transfer of HISC from DLNR to DAB by 2030 under Act 236, dedicated leadership will be critical to ensuring continuity and avoiding disruption to existing HISC programs. Establishing a full-time Executive Director will guide HISC's strategic direction, manage cross-agency operations, coordinate the shifting organizational responsibilities required by Act 236, and ensure that the HISC programs remain functional, aligned, and effective throughout the transition period.

Supporting strong leadership ensure that HISC remains coordinated, productive, and capable of safeguarding Hawai'i's environment and economy as administrative responsibilities move to their new home at DAB. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2488.

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*Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.*

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:05:38 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<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 Coaliton supports SB2488. To fight the growing problem of invasive species in the islands, funding and resources need to be allocated correctly.

Mahalo for your time.



**LATE**

The Senate  
Committee on Water, Land, Culture and the Arts  
Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Wednesday, February 11, 2026  
1:00 PM Conference Room 224  
State Capitol

**SUBJECT: Testimony – In Support of SB2488 “Relating to Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council”**

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice Chairs Richards and Inouye, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing on behalf of the O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) **in strong support of this SB2488 relating to the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council (HISC)**. HISC plays a vital role in providing statewide, cabinet-level coordination on invasive species prevention, early detection and rapid response, containment, eradication, community engagement, and policy development. Effective biosecurity in Hawai‘i requires collaboration across agencies, leveraging of state and non-state funds, and prioritizing species management actions. HISC is well-positioned to continue leading these functions and this bill will strengthen their ability to do so.

**Establishing an Executive Director Position**

As invasive species threats grow in scale and complexity, the HISC requires dedicated and informed leadership to ensure continuity, strategic direction, and effective interdepartmental coordination. A full-time Executive Director will strengthen program execution, improve implementation of statewide priorities, and support the HISC’s duties to advise and collaborate on invasive species related issues between appropriate agencies, the Governor and the Legislature.

**Maintaining Administrative Stability and Funding with DLNR**

Amending Act 236 so that the \$4.25 million HISC allocation for fiscal year 2026–2027 is transferred to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) will ensure administrative continuity and prevent disruption of critical programs that are crucial to on-going statewide priority-pest response. HISC funding supports important initiatives, including: monitoring ports of entry for pests not yet known to be present in Hawai‘i, public reporting of invasive species through 643pest.org, risk assessments like the Hawai‘i-Pacific Weed Risk Assessment, and the competitive grant process that awards funds to invasive species projects and programs that are crucial to statewide biosecurity. If this funding is not transferred to DLNR, interruptions in on-going responses will mean that some high-priority pests will become impossible to contain and eradicate.

**Strengthening Biosecurity through Policy Development**

OISC values the HISC’s leadership in identifying systemic gaps, funding shortfalls, and regulatory improvements needed to address emerging invasive species threats. Providing HISC with the opportunity to recommend improvements to programs and policies will strengthen statewide biosecurity. As threats continue to grow, perpetual evaluation and refinement of the State’s biosecurity framework is something that HISC is well-positioned to assess.

Invasive species remain one of the greatest threats to our environment, agriculture, economy, and quality of life. A strong, well-supported Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is essential to maintaining coordinated statewide management.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Dube". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nate Dube, OISC Manager

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 11:05:21 AM  
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nakoolani Warrington	Testifying for Kupuna for the Moopuna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2488**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:14:14 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:17:22 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<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.

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:55:16 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

My name is Jodi Rodar and I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

In contrast, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) has limited expertise in the breadth of HISC’s work, continues to struggle with implementing the new authorities and staff positions it was given last year, and has a track record of inadequately administering biosecurity funding and ignoring invasive species threats generally. Having DAB administer FY26-27 HISC funds on top of DAB’s current challenges, a change that was enacted last year, would only hinder HISC’s partners and programs with potential funding disruptions and bureaucracy - at a time when Hawai‘i’s biosecurity crises need faster responses, not undue delays.

Placing HISC funds back in the DLNR would ensure continuity in HISC’s and its partners’ efforts, and avoid disruptions to our biosecurity framework that we simply cannot afford.

Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Rodar

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:56:06 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

I am writing today in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

In contrast, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) has limited expertise in the breadth of HISC’s work, continues to struggle with implementing the new authorities and staff positions it was given last year, and has a track record of inadequately administering biosecurity funding and ignoring invasive species threats generally. Having DAB administer FY26-27 HISC funds on top of DAB’s current challenges, a change that was enacted last year, would only hinder HISC’s partners and programs with potential funding disruptions and bureaucracy - at a time when Hawai‘i’s biosecurity crises need faster responses, not undue delays.

Placing HISC funds back in the DLNR would ensure continuity in HISC’s and its partners’ efforts, and avoid disruptions to our biosecurity framework that we simply cannot afford.

Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:59:29 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<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

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

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

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2488.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to DLNR, where the Council is housed, and where such funding has been successfully administered for years. SB2488 will help ensure that invasive species response funds are deployed in a timely, transparent, and effective manner.

Invasive species have created a critical crisis in Hawaii. We need to ensure that invasive species funding flows directly to frontline biosecurity efforts, without bureaucratic delays.

I urge you to please **PASS** this crucial measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:36:42 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<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 Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

My name is Kealii Pang, Ph.D., and I write in strong support of SB2488. I am a retired federal biologist with twenty five years of experience working on invasive species issues in Hawai'i and the Mariana Islands.

This measure restores funding for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources, where the council resides and where staff have managed these funds effectively for many years. The bill also strengthens council capacity through creation of an executive director position.

DLNR and its staff possess deep experience administering HISC funds and directing resources to programs you and your communities rely on. These include the island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai'i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program. These efforts protect homes, farms, watersheds, and nearshore environments through early detection, rapid response, and public engagement.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity faces ongoing challenges implementing new authorities and staffing granted last year. DAB also lacks experience across the full scope of HISC's work and has struggled with consistent administration of biosecurity funding. Assigning HISC funds to DAB for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 risks delays, added bureaucracy, and funding disruptions during a period when Hawai'i requires faster and more coordinated invasive species responses.

Returning HISC funds to DLNR ensures continuity for partner programs and preserves a biosecurity framework proven to function during past crises.

SB2488 also strengthens HISC through establishment of a dedicated executive director. A full time director would coordinate work between meetings, represent HISC in interagency discussions, and keep response efforts moving without interruption.

This bill protects existing capacity and delivers timely reinforcement to Hawai'i's invasive species response system. I respectfully urge you to PASS SB2488.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

Retired Federal Biologist

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:37:04 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Chairs Lee am e Gabbard, aloha e Vice Chairs Inouye am e Richards, am e members of the Committees,

My name is Anne M. Lorenzo, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

In contrast, the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) has limited expertise in the breadth of HISC’s work, continues to struggle with implementing the new authorities and staff positions it was given last year, and has a track record of inadequately administering biosecurity funding and ignoring invasive species threats generally. Having DAB administer FY26-27 HISC funds on top of DAB’s current challenges, a change that was enacted last year, would only hinder HISC’s partners and programs with potential funding disruptions and bureaucracy - at a time when Hawai‘i’s biosecurity crises need faster responses, not undue delays.

Placing HISC funds back in the DLNR would ensure continuity in HISC’s and its partners’ efforts, and avoid disruptions to our biosecurity framework that we simply cannot afford.

Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Anne M. Lorenzo

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:33:07 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Wilson, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

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SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Peter Wilson

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:34:08 PM  
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

My name is Bo Breda, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

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Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Bo Breda

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:36:27 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

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Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.  
Jody Smith

Honolulu 96825

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:04:03 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

I strongly support SB2488.

Please pass this measure.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:48:38 PM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Luke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to fund HISC to address the crisis of invasive species. Let's get this done. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:43:37 PM  
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
malcolm mackey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Inouye and Richards, and members of the Committees,

My name is Malcolm Mackey, and I am writing in **strong support of SB2488**.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

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Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Malcolm Mackey

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 2:24:11 AM

Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Fryer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2488.

This bill would restore funding for the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), where the Council is housed and where such funding has been successfully administered for years, while also adding much-needed capacity to the council by establishing an executive director position.

DLNR and its dedicated staff have the experience and expertise to ensure that Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee (HISC) funds get to the programs that we depend on, to protect our homes, farms, lands, and waters from invasive pests. These include the highly effective island invasive species committees, 643PEST.org, the Hawai‘i Weed Risk Assessment, and the Plant Pono Program, among others.

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Placing HISC funds back in the DLNR would ensure continuity in HISC’s and its partners’ efforts, and avoid disruptions to our biosecurity framework that we simply cannot afford.

Lastly, this bill would also strengthen HISC by creating a dedicated executive director position. A full-time director would ensure that HISC has staff that can focus fully on its mission, including by coordinating work between meetings, representing HISC in key discussions, and otherwise ensuring invasive species response efforts move quickly and effectively.

SB2488 will both protect and give a critically-needed, timely boost to our islands’ ability to address our invasive species crises. I urge you to please **PASS** this measure.

**LATE**

**SB-2488**

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 10:08:02 AM  
Testimony for WLA on 2/11/2026 1:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2466.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii