

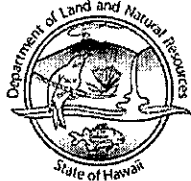
HB 1716

Measure Title: MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.

Report Title: Invasive Species Council; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Appropriates funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1716
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING**

House Bill 1716 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support strategic, statewide invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning projects. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

As an island state, Hawaii faces a broad array of invasive species problems, including stinging fire ants, rapidly growing invasive plants that alter watershed forest composition and function, marine algae that smother our coral reefs, and mosquitoes that may carry deadly diseases. Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's environment, agriculture and economy, and to the health and way of life of Hawaii's people.

HISC is administratively housed at the Department. The Executive Budget request currently includes \$1,000,000 in supplemental funds for HISC, to be added to \$750,000 that was previously appropriated for Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 at the start of this biennium. With recent discoveries of new invasive species infestations, the Governor and the Department are now supporting the \$5,000,000 supplemental appropriation proposed in the joint priority package. This is the amount calculated by HISC support staff to maintain project capacity and function in FY 2015. The Department supports this additional appropriation measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

**JESSE SOUKI
FIRST DEPUTY**

**WILLIAM M. TAM
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**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

KEN H. KAKESAKO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER AND LAND

TUESDAY MARCH 18, 2014
2:45 P.M.
ROOM 225

HOUSE BILL NO. 1716
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION, CONTROL,
OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.

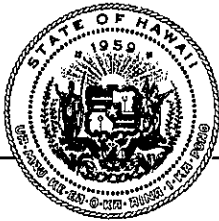
Chairpersons Gabbard and Solomon and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1716. This bill will provide funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), for the protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this measure, but defers to HISC as to how the proposed funding would be allocated.

Hawaii faces many invasive species threats across the islands, including the little fire ant, coffee berry borer, and the coconut rhinoceros beetle. HISC provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state, federal, and international agencies for the control and eradication of such invasive species. HISC is an essential component to combat invasive species in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

JESSE K. SOUKI
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of the
OFFICE OF PLANNING
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

Tuesday, March 18, 2014
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

in consideration of
HB 1716
**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES
PREVENTION, CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING.**

Chairs Gabbard and Solomon, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Galuteria, and Members of the Senate Committees on Energy and Environment and Water and Land.

On behalf of the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT), the Office of Planning (OP) serves as a voting member of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). HISC is a State interdepartmental collaboration created to provide policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives for the control and eradication of harmful invasive species infestations throughout the State and for preventing the introduction of other invasive species that may be potentially harmful. OP supports HB1716 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in our Executive Budget.

OP administers HRS Chapter 205A, the Coastal Zone Management (CZM) law under which one of its tasks is the preparation and update of the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP), a statewide, multi-agency, multi-jurisdictional plan to achieve comprehensive and

integrated ocean and coastal resources management. The 2013 update of the ORMP has identified two (2) marine resource goals to:

1. Minimize the spread of aquatic invasive species from bays where there is coral or water quality degradation.
2. Minimize the likelihood of aquatic invasive species introductions and spread into and within Hawaii from sources associated with vessels.

OP supports the efforts of HISC to address goals for the reduction and management of invasive aquatic species to protect the threat of negative impacts to Hawaii's critical ocean and coastal ecosystems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES
SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
GARY GILL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
MARIA GALLO, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
JESSE SOUKI
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM
DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Testimony of the
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
&
WATER AND LAND**

**Tuesday, March 18, 2014
2:45 PM
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 225**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1716
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING**

House Bill 1716 would appropriate funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to support statewide invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning projects. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) **supports this measure.**

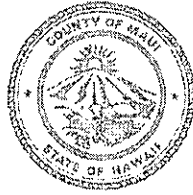
The legislature created the HISC in 2003 as a tool for cabinet-level, interagency coordination on invasive species issues. In addition to providing policy direction, the HISC has annually disbursed funds for strategic projects that build on or fill gaps between regular departmental programs regarding invasive species. The initial goal for the 2004 Executive Budget was \$5,000,000 in general funds. Actual appropriations from the general fund from FY05-09 varied between \$1-2,000,000 annually, dropping to \$0 from FY10-13. In FY14, the legislature approved \$750,000 in general funds for each year of the FY14-15 biennium.

The invasive species problem in Hawaii was described in a 2002 Legislative Bureau study as requiring \$50,000,000 annually across all funding sources. The subsequent decade has seen an expansion of many priority invasive pests: Little Fire Ants have spread from Hawaii Island to Kauai and Maui and have been detected for the first time on Oahu. Axis deer have been illegally transported from Maui to Hawaii Island, threatening critical agricultural and conservation areas. Coqui frogs have been detected in every county, though vigilant detection and control programs have thus far kept coqui from

establishing on Kauai, Oahu, and Molokai. The reduction in Vector Control staff at the Department of Health has resulted in reduced monitoring for mosquitoes that may carry yellow fever, dengue fever, or malaria. A significant increase in funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in the FY15 budget would support the State's ability to address these critical issues.

The HISC is administratively housed at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). The Executive Budget request currently includes \$1,000,000 in supplemental funds for the HISC at DLNR, to be added to \$750,000 that was previously appropriated for FY15 at the start of this biennium. With recent discoveries of new invasive species infestations, the Governor and the DLNR are now supporting the \$5,000,000 supplemental appropriation proposed in the joint priority package. This is the amount calculated by HISC support staff to maintain project capacity and function in FY15. The HISC supports this measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the joint priority package or the Executive Budget request.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793-2155
Telephone (808) 270-7855
Fax (808) 270-7870
e-mail: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Ke'ena O Ka Meia
COUNTY OF MAUI – Kalana O Maui

**TESTIMONY OF ALAN ARAKAWA, MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI**

**BEFORE THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

and

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 2:45 p.m., Conference Rm. 225

HOUSE BILL 1716

**RELATING TO MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION,
CONTROL, OUTREACH, RESEARCH, AND PLANNING**

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Malama Solomon, Chair
Honorable Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair
And Members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land

Thank you for this opportunity to testify **IN SUPPORT** of **HB 1716**. The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research and planning.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

- The appropriation of funds for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council is important as the invasion of Hawaii by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is a significant threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment, as well as to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people.
- Invasive species can cause the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests, spread of disease, and millions of dollars in crop losses. A 2010 study by Shwiff, et al., found that if brown tree snakes were introduced to Hawaii, the cost to the State in lost tourism, health costs, and damage to power infrastructure could total \$2,140,000,000 per year.

Senators Gabbard/Solomon
HB 1716 Relating to Invasive Species
March 18, 2014
Page 2 of 2

- In Maui County, this measure will help address our ongoing efforts to deal with invasive species such as miconia, coqui frogs, axis deer, and most recently – the little fire ant. The invasive stinging fire ant was recently confirmed to have made its way from Hawaii Island to Oahu and Maui. If not quickly dealt with, a pest like the red fire ant could forever change the character of our islands as these invasive species would do irreparable harm to our economy and human health, and essentially create an environmental crisis.
- Funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council will ensure statewide coordinated and timely efforts to efficiently combat invasive species.
- While the taxpayers of Maui County have invested millions of dollars in combating invasive species over the years – more needs to be done. Stopping and containing invasive species is essential to Hawaii's current and future well-being.

For these reasons, I support of HB 1716.



OISC

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land
Senator Malama Solomon, Chair
Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in **support** of HB 1716:
Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning.

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, March 18, 2014 2:45 PM, Room 225

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee **supports** HB 1716, which would provide critical funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to keep Hawaii's forests and watersheds healthy.

There are a multitude of invasive species threats facing Hawaii currently. Some will significantly impact agriculture, like the coffee berry borer; our quality of life, like the loud calls of the Coqui frog; or rare and threatened native species, like the Coconut rhinoceros beetle; while other invasive species will impact all aspects of life here in the islands, like little fire ant. Without an increase in funding, state conservation organizations cannot keep up with survey and control efforts for these highly destructive and costly invaders. Hawaii will lose the ecosystem services that a healthy native forest provides, its economic base provided by agriculture and tourism and native species only found on these islands.

Climate change is an impending and unparalleled threat to natural ecosystems in Hawaii and to each person who relies on services from the natural environment for their livelihoods, health and welfare. In Hawai'i, science indicates that climate change impacts will include frequent and severe storms, an increase in runoff and siltation; even with more storm there will be less rainfall overall which will impact fresh water supplies; and an increase in the average temperatures which will potentially benefit and increase the establishment of invasive species. One of the most effective tools we have to help address the effects of climate change in Hawai'i is to protect our forests. Hawaii's native forests are thick with undergrowth that anchors soil to mountain, preventing erosion and ensuring that rainwater is percolated into the island's aquifer, replenishing our water supply. Invasive plants kill off this understory, leaving our island vulnerable. Keeping the watershed healthy requires hiring staff to go out and remove invasive plants. This bill will create jobs while protecting Hawaii from negative impacts of climate change.

This funding will support on-the-ground invasive species surveys and control that protect the island of O'ahu and the State from watershed-destroying weeds and will create conservation careers. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Julia Parish,
on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

HB1716

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for ENE/WTL on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: The Big Island Invasive Species Committee strongly supports this bill. BIISC is a partnership of private citizens, community organizations, businesses, land owners, and local, state, and federal government agencies organized to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the spread of the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life. Along with the other island invasive species committees, we are major recipients of HISC funds. On the island of Hawaii, HISC funds more than 50% of our operations. BIISC raises the remainder, nearly half a million dollars per year, from federal and private funders. This out-of-state funding stream is made possible by demonstrating the HISC investment in our programs as matching funds, and it further allows the ISCs to work on projects that may be specific to each county, and therefore NOT covered by HISC funds. HISC provides the direction, oversight, and inclusive review processes to ensure that a proactive investment in invasive species management is money well spent. Funding this bill at the requested amount will go a long way toward ensuring that the invasive species committees, Hawaii Ant Lab, Aquatic Invasive Species Programs, Invasive Species research and development programs, public education and outreach, little known critical support programs in information technology and plant identification, and of course the island-based Invasive Species Committees, are able to continue their important work. Thank you for your consideration.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1716 Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species
Prevention, Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 2:45 PM, Room 225

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1716 and its proposed funding for the invasive species programs of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. Indeed, the colonization rate of introduced insects and mites in Hawai'i has been estimated at 500 times the rate of the continental United States.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) provides a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species policy and funding including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs. This effort necessarily results in important coordination, collaboration, and prioritization amongst government agencies and partners based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic and agricultural harm, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this critical funding measure.

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**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of SB 2343/ HB 1716 Making an Appropriation for Invasive Species Prevention,
Control, Outreach, Research, and Planning**

**Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

18 March 2014, 2:45pm
Conference Room 225

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535
Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 50 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB 2343/ HB 1716 to appropriate critical funding for invasive species prevention, control, outreach, research, and planning.

Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threatens the health of Hawai'i's people, economy and ecosystems. They also reduce our ability to withstand impacts from climate change. We agree that addressing the invasive species threat is a top priority for action by all sectors, and we strongly support the Joint Majority Package proposed \$5 million in funding for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to help eradicate threats from invasive species on all the islands.

State leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated and cost-effective response to current and future threats. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant is just one example of the severe consequences that invasive pest species can have on us all.

Hawai'i was one of the first states to establish an effective interagency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to provide a comprehensive statewide approach to address the broad impact of invasive species (Act 85 in 2003) and to support active Invasive Species Committees (ISCs) on each island, HISC has been used as a model across the Pacific island region and globally. The Legislature recognized the need for coordinated, holistic and ongoing leadership on this issue. Now is the time to give HISC and partners sufficient support to protect Hawai'i today and in the future.

As a partnership representing Hawai'i's leaders in environment, food and energy, HGG asks for your support of **SB 2343/ HB 1716**, which is an important investment in Hawai'i's future.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy.

HB1716

Submitted on: 3/10/2014

Testimony for ENE/WTL on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

HB1716

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for ENE/WTL on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Borgnino	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: We must protect our beautiful state from invasive species. Every dollar spent on invasive species protection saves many times that in economic losses.

HB1716

Submitted on: 3/12/2014

Testimony for ENE/WTL on Mar 18, 2014 14:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Sager	Individual	Support	No

Comments: HB1716 is the surviving bill which will fund the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. The HISC aims to maintain a comprehensive overview of issues and implement a state-wide invasive species prevention, early detection and control program for terrestrial and aquatic invaders. The focus is on programmatic and capacity shortfalls not currently addressed by state agencies. HISC's mission is to identify gaps in the invasive species programs of state agencies and funded projects will be a testing ground for new methods and capacity to address invasive species. Over time agencies are expected to incorporate HISC developed systems in their programs, thereby freeing up HISC resources to further promote innovation and address gaps in the overall effort to effectively manage invasive species. This coordination is vital to help state agencies work together to effectively address invasive species issues. WAL passed HB1716 with an amendment specifically funding albizia control on the Big Island. This was probably done because bills specifically addressing albizia control have died in committee. These are two different issues. Funding for HISC is vital because HISC is the one coordinating organization for invasive species control in the state. Control of albizia is a statewide problem. Albizia is naturalized in Hawaii. It is invasive, and because it is subject to wind damage it can be a dangerous tree when it is in a location where it could fall on a highway, power line or building. It is also a valuable wood. I've seen a beautiful 40 foot Hawaiian canoe carved from a clear trunk. When properly treated it can be successfully used for anything from deck planking to fence posts. Albizia should be controlled where it poses a danger and it should not be introduced in areas where it is not already established, but it is not the invasive threat that is posed by miconia, strawberry guava, clidemia and many other invasive plants threatening native ecosystems. We need the comprehensive approach to invasive species control provided by HISC. Albizia is a complex problem the legislature should not try to micromanage. I support HB1716 even with the amendment because HISC serves such an important function. Bill Sager, Forester, Kaneohe