

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, March 14, 2019
8:35 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 871, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 871, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for positions at the Hawaii Island Branch of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife to reduce the problem of invasive species on Hawaii Island. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes invasive species as a major problem for the protection of natural resources, as well as for agricultural production, tourism, and human health. The Department notes that the administration request includes 10 positions for invasive species mitigation statewide at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife as a first step toward reaching a goal of 45 positions by 2027, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. This administration request includes two positions for Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**MARCH 14, 2019
8:35 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 871 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Lowen and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 871 SD1, relating to invasive species. The bill appropriates funds to the DLNR for five permanent full-time equivalent invasive species technician positions to control invasive species in Hawai'i County. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

Funding for control of invasive species, such as miconia, is critical to ensure that appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan guides these efforts, and staffing is a critical component of the plan. However, the Department of Land and Natural Resources is only one of the many partnering agencies included in the Interagency Biosecurity Plan that are charged with protecting Hawai'i. Each partnering agency has a critical role in ensuring that the action items in the plan can be implemented. The Department of Agriculture also plays a critical role in the prevention, control, and eradication of invasive species throughout the State and including funding for Department of Agriculture staff would enable a more comprehensive implementation of the Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 14, 2019 at 8:35 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 871 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 871 SD1 relating to invasive species and appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources' (DLNR) Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Hawai'i branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawai'i Island to address invasive plants and animals. The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources supports the intent of this bill and we respectfully provide the following information to substantiate our position.

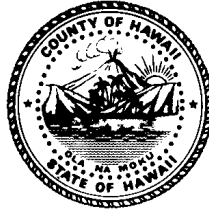
A single miconia plant can invade >2,400 acres of protected watershed in tropical area over time. One mature plant produces approximately 400 fruits and 80,000 seeds. Fruits are attractive to birds which spread the seeds over long distances. Seeds from one fruit can survive 32-48 years (serious weed seed bank problem). Miconia also has a shallow root system that facilitates soil erosion.

A study by Dr. James Leary showed that one new mature plant impacts an estimated 850 acres of forested watershed with an associated cost of \$66,000 to ameliorate. Therefore, technicians are required needed to carry out this task in a timely manner before Hawai'i Island watersheds are severely impacted.

A real life example of how damaging miconia can be in the tropical rainforest is that a quarter of the rainforest in Tahiti is now made up of miconia stands.

We support the intent of this bill and defer to the testimony of DLNR as to the specifics.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 12, 2019

Representative Nicole E. Lowen, Chair
Representative Tina Wildberger, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 871, SD1 Relating to Invasive Species

In the past two years, the Council of Mayors has identified invasive species as a top priority that deserves everyone's attention. Our best efforts at the county level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that the State, counties, Feds, and private sector work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems. This Legislature has really stood up, and hopefully will do even more this year.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawai'i County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, and probably others. But all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." As a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own. We need as much assistance from the State as you can offer.

While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting invasives, and therefore urge passage of SB 871 in some form. Please provide as much money as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, include positions and funding in your priorities for the State budget, and let's move forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND ENVIROMENTAL PROTECTION COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

S.B. 871, SD1

Relating to Invasive Species

Thursday, March 14, 2019
8:30 A.M., Agenda Item #4
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Sharon Suzuki
President, Maui County and Hawai'i Island Utilities
Hawaiian Electric Light Company, Inc. & Maui Electric Company, Limited

Dear Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger and Members of the Committees,

My name is Sharon Suzuki and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric Company Inc. and its subsidiary utilities Maui Electric Company, Limited and Hawai'i Electric Light Company, Inc. ("the Hawaiian Electric Companies") in support of S.B. 871, SD1, Relating to Invasive Species.

S.B. 871, SD1 provides funds to establish invasive technician positions for the Department of Land and Natural Resouces' Division of Forestry and Wildlife in Hawai'i county to control inasive species, from negatively impacting the environment and economy.

Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 871, SD1 for the following reasons:

- Albizia trees are an invasive species, and a hazard to public safety and critical infrastructure.
- Strands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow on many public and private properties. Tropical Storm Iselle brought down many Albizia trees, blocked roadways, and caused millions of dollars in damage

to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.

- The efforts to mitigate their damage, like many other invasive species has become protracted and expensive.
- DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Hawaii Branch) and Big Island Invasive Species Council have made significant efforts in controlling invasive species on Hawaii Island.
- This bill will help fund five invasive species technician positions for the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife- Hawaii Branch. The invasive species technician's will help to control invasive plants and animals from negatively impacting the Hawaii island community.

Accordingly, the Hawaiian Electric Companies support S.B. 871, SD1 which will help further efforts to control or eradicate invasive species. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

SB-871-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2019 4:54:59 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2019 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

Until and unless, DLNR and other state agencies identify by species and in normal parlance the particular animals they wish to target, we oppose this bill.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting SB871 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Thursday, March 14, 2019, 8:35AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation 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 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports SB871 SD1 that would provide funding to the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to hire additional staff to address invasive pests on Hawai'i island.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i'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.

We also hope that the funding and staffing proposed in this bill will continue to be additive. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. Beyond this bill's additive funding, we encourage the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

SB-871-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2019 9:38:05 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2019 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



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LATE

March 14, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON SB 871, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 325
8:35 AM

Aloha Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 871, SD1, which appropriates funds to the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife, Hawaii branch, for invasive species technician positions on Hawaii island to address invasive plants and animals.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Hawaii County. We respectfully request that all Counties receive funding to combat invasive species.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

LATE

SB-871-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 9:29:39 PM
Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2019 8:35:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

SB-871-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2019 6:48:38 PM

Testimony for EEP on 3/14/2019 8:35:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB871. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must take measures to do what we can to protect Hawaii’s fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei