

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

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TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HEARING ON MARCH 10, 2020 AT 1:15PM IN CR 016

HB 2015, HD1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

March 6, 2020

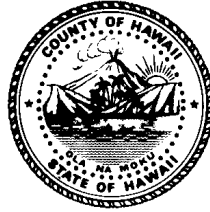
Aloha Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2015, HD1. This bill establishes a pilot program within the Aina Mauna legacy program of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) to remove and harvest gorse from Mauna Kea and develop it as a marketable product to expand economic opportunities for native Hawaiians. The Department supports the intent of this measure as long as it doesn't affect the priorities identified in the Governor's Supplemental Budget request.

Gorse is a highly invasive thorny shrub that creates impenetrable thickets which can be over 12 feet tall. DHHL Aina Mauna lands contain Hawaii's largest infestation of gorse, covering over 10,000 acres which prohibits homesteading and other land uses. The ecology and characteristics of this invasive species, which include abundant and early seed production, is easily spread and an over 30-year seedbank life, make containment, removal and long-term control of gorse very difficult and costly. The importance of eliminating this plant cannot be overstated. DHHL spends a great amount of time, effort and resources to control gorse annually and continues to look for the most feasible, efficient and effective long term solution to the gorse infestation on the Aina Mauna lands of Humuula and Piihonua. Any assistance in this effort is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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March 9, 2020

Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omalu/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho'omalu/Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2015, HD1 Relating to Invasive Species

HB 2015, HD1 is a valuable bill, as the control of this invasive species is very important, not only to the environment on the upper slopes of Maunakea, but also to prevent gorse's spread to the lower slopes during rain events.

I would suggest that the development of a pilot project include consultation with the Big Island and Hawai'i Invasive Species Councils, DLNR, HDOA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Hawai'i specialists, to provide input and guidance to avoid unintended consequences of further spreading the plant, plant parts, or seeds during removal and repurposing of the gorse. I would also ask that the Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Commission be invited to consult, since that Commission has long expressed concern about the spread of gorse and the fire hazard it represents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/7/2020 10:34:28 AM

Testimony for HWN on 3/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Regina Gregory	Testifying for EcoTipping Points Project	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 7:52:30 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Souza-Wright	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

There are too many unanswered questions about this bill. It's important to remove invasive species, but what is the plan to prevent it from coming back? How do we know that the profits will actually go to help native Hawaiians? I think there needs to be more details addressing things like how much is required for this budget?

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/6/2020 7:54:56 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie A. Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the clearing of invasive species off Mauna Kea.

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 2:37:00 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cheryl B.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support. Let's get the gorce and all the other invasives off Mauna Kea and keep them off.

HB-2015-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 6:36:26 PM

Testimony for HWN on 3/10/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Siangco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I support the need to remove Gorse from Mauna Kea. However, I oppose this bill because it brings a lot of questions into play. How will this lead to greater economic opportunities for Native Hawaiians? Who or what organization receives the funding from such sales? Why is there no dollar amount listed when mentioning the general revenues that may be needed for 2020-2021? I would like to see a more detailed Bill