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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 25, 2020
12:40 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2622, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 2622, Senate Draft 1 proposes to add 5 permanent positions the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for the detection and management of invasive species in the county of Hawaii. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Invasive species are a primary threat in DOFAW's management of natural resources in Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserves, and Wildlife Sanctuaries. HIBP postborder funding action PosTifs1.10 sets a goal of adding 45 biosecurity positions statewide by 2027 to address this gap. Similar positions requested in 2018 and 2019 were not approved, making it more challenging to meet the goals of the Biosecurity Plan by 2027. The positions described in SECTION 2 of this measure would provide substantial progress toward addressing this action in the Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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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February 21, 2020

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2622, SD1 Relating to Invasive Species

In the past three 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, miconia, spittlebug, and probably others. But we cannot give up. And since, 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 2622, SD1 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



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February 25, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2622, SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 211
12:40 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 1,800 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 2622, SD1, which funds to the department of land and natural resources division of forestry and wildlife for invasive species technician positions in the county of Hawaii 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.

SB-2622-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 6:05:15 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2622. Hawaii is known as the “endangered species capital of the world” due in large part to invasive species. We must do what we can to protect Hawaii's dwindling native species, which will in turn protect Hawaii’s fragile ecosystem.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui