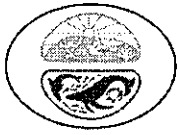


HB1684

HD2 SD1



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

HB 1684 HD 2 SD 1 Relating to Invasive Species
Hearing: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 9:30 am Room 016

In support of HB 1684 HD SD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1684 HD 2 SD 1, which prevents and reduces the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species by establishing and revising penalties appropriate to the harm caused by the intentional introduction and spread of invasive species to the economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people.

We also ask you to increase the fines and penalties so that they deter people from breaking the law. The proposed fines and penalties in Section 150A-14 seem low. We recommend they be increased. Also, we ask that you provide funding to increase the number of state agricultural inspectors at ports of entry to help enforce this law and maximize its effectiveness.

Please pass HB 1684 HD 2 SD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holohoiona Iohiu*

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
(Provided by Mark Fox, Director of External Affairs)
Supporting H.B. 1684 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Judiciary & Government Affairs
Tuesday, March 23, 2010, 9:30am, Rm. 016

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, 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 of Hawai'i supports H.B. 1684 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species.

Invasive insects, diseases, snakes, weeds, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is responsible for the inspection of domestic cargo and passengers arriving at Hawai'i's ports to protect the state from the introduction of unwanted plant and animal pests and diseases. The HDOA also inspects interisland shipments to prevent movement of pests between islands. Pest risk assessments conducted by the Department at ports of entry across the state have helped the Department identify high-risk pathways for pest introductions and prioritize the allocation of departmental resources. The Department has also developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan to enhance its efforts with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection services, joint state-federal inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i. The financial and personnel support provided by the Legislature has been essential to implementing this plan.

Providing the HDOA with authority to assess fines and penalties for the intentional introduction of invasive species provides the appropriate and necessary disincentive for such actions and helps to achieve the goal of enhanced prevention and control of invasive species.

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