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**Testimony by:**  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 30, 2017  
1:40 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 211



**H.B. 1339, H.D. 1, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which expands the authority of the existing Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

The DOT finds its membership on this council useful in providing policy level direction, coordination, and planning 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and serve as a model for integrated green growth

## Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

### Board of Directors

### In Support of HB1339 HD1 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species Program Administration Senate Committee on Ways and Means

March 2017, 1: pm, Room 2

**Deanna Spooner**

Pacific Island Climate  
Change Cooperative

**June Matsumoto**

Pacific Islands Institute

**Ka'eo Duarte**

Kamehameha Schools

**Matt Lynch**

University of Hawai'i

**Mark Fox**

The Nature Conservancy

**Mike Hamnett**

Hawai'i Energy Policy  
Forum

**Piia Aarma**

Pineapple Tweed Public  
Relations & Marketing

**Pono Shim**

O'ahu Economic  
Development Board

**Scott Enright**

Department of Agriculture

**Scott Seu**

Hawaiian Electric  
Company

**Ulalia Woodside**

The Nature Conservancy

**William J. Aila Jr.**

Department of Hawaiian  
Homelands

Aloha Chair Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports HB1339 HD1 SD1** to restructure the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, providing new board seats for non-governmental stakeholders and providing the ability to hire staff to better coordinate interagency programs that implement the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Invasive species are a cross cutting issue that threaten the health of Hawai'i's economy, ecosystems, agricultural production and people. The recent spread of the Little Fire Ant, outbreak of dengue fever on Hawai'i Island and Rapid 'Ohia Death are a couple examples of the severe consequences that invasive species can have. Continued state leadership and funding are essential for rapid, coordinated response to current and future threats.

While the Hawaii Invasive Species Council has been successful, restructuring as an attached authority to the Department of Agriculture would be an important step to elevate this critical issue for increased impact. The Department of Agriculture's broad mandates regarding invasive species and biosecurity make it an appropriate agency for this important statewide priority.

Hawai'i Green Growth partners agreed that biosecurity is an important priority to support implementation on Hawaii's *Aloha+ Challenge* 2030 sustainability goals. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a joint leadership commitment launched by the State Legislature (SCR69), Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners. This statewide framework outlines six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resource management, solid waste, smart sustainable communities, and green education and workforce. The Aloha+ Challenge has been recognized nationally and internationally as model that can be scaled to support the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

With leadership and support from the State Legislature, Hawai'i hosted the first U.S. held IUCN World Conservation Congress with over 10,000 global partners from 190 countries in 2016. **HB1339 HD1 SD1** is an opportunity to continue important local action on sustainable development and resiliency. As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports **HB1339 HD1 SD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

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**LATE**



Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Hearing: Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017 Room 211  
HB1339

Aloha,

BIISC would like to express our strong support for HB1339, restructuring the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to the Hawaii Invasive Species Authority as a first step in implementing a strong state Biosecurity plan, and allocating funds for invasive species control in Hawaii.

Over the last 20 years on the Big Island, we have seen the extreme impacts on our residential life, our agriculture, and our economy from invasive species. It is now time for Hawaii to implement strong biosecurity protections for our state. Solid coordination between state departments is critical to the success of any invasive species response plan. We hope that the Interagency Biosecurity Plan has met the expectations of your committee in clearly laying out the tasks, relationships, and needs for invasive species prevention and management in our state. The HISA structure will allow for stronger collaboration both within the state and with our county, federal, and NGO partners to implement this plan.

If one thing is clear from the economic research on invasive species, it is that dollars spent on prevention, early detection, and rapid response are worth hundreds and even thousands more in savings down the line. Each year, the HISC receives far more worthy proposals for invasive species research and control than it can fund. A lack of strong investment early in invasions truly costs our taxpayers, businesses, and farmers: simply ask a Big Island resident about their experiences with albizia, coqui, or little fire ant.

We encourage this legislature to signal the state's commitment to strong biosecurity by passing HB1339 into law.

We thank and commend you all for your attention to invasive species issues this legislative session—your efforts are truly appreciated.

Springer Kaye  
BIISC Manager