



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
And
Senate Committee on Water and Land
And
Senate Committee on Agriculture
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SB 1046 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard, Thielen and Ruderman, Vice Chairs Green, Galuteria and Riviere, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment, Senate Committee on Water and Land, and Senate Committee on Agriculture, we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 1046, which appropriates moneys to DLNR and DOA for addressing issues relating to invasive species; and requires the LRB to update the economic and environmental costs component of its 2002 study on invasive species.

Invasive species pose significant threats to agriculture, natural resources, and human and animal health and well-being in Hawai'i. A recent study by the Department of Agriculture reported an average of 24 new insect species introduced to Hawai'i each year. In addition, invasive plant species threaten our native forests (e.g., miconia), and animal health (e.g., fire weed). Many of the resources of the University of Hawai'i, particularly in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, are dedicated to combating these threats.

As a member of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Coordinating Council, the University of Hawai'i supports the actions recommended in SB 1046. The 2002 study of the impact of invasive species in Hawai'i performed by the Legislative Reference Bureau has provided a solid basis for state action for over a decade, but needs to be updated to reflect the current situation. Although we recognize that numerous measures are introduced each session to appropriate funding to different agencies and for different specific purposes within the overall scope of invasive species prevention and management, this is a direct reflection of the complex nature of the problem and the need for multiple approaches and actions that are beyond the scope of a single group or agency.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 1046.