



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
And  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
And

Senate Committee on Transportation  
Tuesday, February 17, 2015 at 3:15 pm

By  
Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor  
And  
Maria Gallo, Dean  
And  
J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

### SB 1059 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard, Ruderman and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Green, Riviere and Harimoto, and members of the committees, we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 1059, which will reduce movement of invasive species within and between islands by clarifying the authority of the Department of Agriculture with respect to movement and inspection of goods, and designation of quarantine areas; and authorize a compliance agreement program to insure that qualifying agricultural businesses in quarantine areas can transport their commodities with minimal risk of pest or disease spread.

Invasive species pose significant threats to agriculture, natural resources, and human and animal health and well-being in Hawai'i. Coqui frogs, the coffee berry borer, and coconut rhinoceros beetles all provide recent examples of the difficulty of eradication, containment, and prevention of interisland dispersal of introduced pests. Significant 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.

With rapid dispersal characteristic of invasive species, and limited manpower to enforce inspections and containment, the Department of Agriculture needs the clear authority provided by SB 1059 for inspection, permitting, and designation of quarantine areas. The compliance agreement program authorized by SB 1059 deals in realistic fashion with quarantine enforcement by placing an emphasis on documentation of best pest management practices by producers and shippers prior to transportation of goods. This program should allow more efficient allocation of resources for inspections, while decreasing the overall threat of spread of pests and diseases from the quarantined area.