UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
And
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
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SB 1059 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Kouchi, and members of the committees, we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 1059 SD1, 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 Hawaiʻi. Coqui frogs, the coffee berry borer, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and little fire ants all provide recent examples of the difficulty of eradication, containment, and prevention of interisland dispersal of introduced pests. Significant resources of the University of Hawaiʻi, particularly in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) at the University of Hawaiʻi 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 SD1 for inspection, permitting, and designation of quarantine areas. The compliance agreement program authorized by SB 1059 SD1 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.