



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Philip Williams

Acting Dean

College of Natural Sciences

And

Michael Bruno, Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1100 SD2 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of SB 1100 SD2 and offers comments regarding this measure.

Part IX (Section 36) All rights, powers, functions, and duties of the invasive species council are transferred from the department of land and natural resources to the department of agriculture and biosecurity.

The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (the Council), which coordinates efforts to prevent, control, and eradicate harmful invasive species in Hawai'i, is a collaborative body made up of six agencies: the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Department of Agriculture (HDOA), the University of Hawai'i (UH), the Department of Health, the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the Department of Transportation. The Council operates under a shared framework, guided by the Interagency Biosecurity Plan, and is co-chaired by both HDOA and DLNR Chairs. Additionally, an interagency MOU between HDOA, DLNR, and UH outlines their cooperation on preventing and managing high-priority pests. Given that the Council is already co-chaired by both HDOA and DLNR, and that there is a well-established MOU between these agencies and UH, along with the need for continued responsiveness without interruption in active research and management of invasive species, we ask that the Council continue to be administered under DLNR and to keep its interagency character and purpose.