

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Leah Kocher <lk@conservehi.org>

Mon 6/24/2024 11:43 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

📎 1 attachments (928 KB)

DOA Testimony 6.24.24.docx;

Attached please find testimony for VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates from Jonnetta Peters.

Mahalo,
Leah Kocher
Operations and Events Manager
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
lk@conservehi.org





Hawai'i Board of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, HI 96819

June 24, 2024

Aloha Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Jonnetta Peters, Executive Director of Conservation Council for Hawai'i (CCH). On behalf of CCH, I would like to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. I would like to see this trend continue. Previously, the lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. I find it completely unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods – especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Telephone/Fax: 224.338-6511 | email: info@conservehi.org

web: www.conservehawaii.org | P.O. Box 2923, Honolulu, HI 96802

President: Colleen Heyer | Vice President: Sunshine Woodford | Secretary: Makaala Kaaumoana

**Treasurer: Mashuri Waite, PhD | Directors: Puanani Anderson-Fung,
Bret Nainoa Mossman, Michael Nakachi |**

Executive Director: Jonnetta "Jonee" Peters

Operations and Events Manager: Leah Kocher

National Wildlife Federation Region 12 Director: Rachel Sprague

National Wildlife Federation Pacific Region Associate Director: Emily Martin

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu – Hawai'i's voice for wildlife | State Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation



Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jonnetta Peters".

Jonnetta Peters
Executive Director
Conservation Council for Hawai'i
jp@conservehi.org

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[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Christy Gusman <Christy@mauipestcontrol.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 2:55 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

 1 attachments (43 KB)

DOA Testimony.pdf;

Aloha,

Please see attached Testimony.

Mahalo Piha,

Christy Kajiwara Gusman

(808) 870-3219

Christy Kajiwaru Gusman
11 Waihee Valley Road
Wailuku, Hawaii. 96793
(808) 870-3219


Aloha Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Christy Kajiwaru Gusman I own and operate a small farm & ranch in Maui County. I would like to begin by saying Mahalo to the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. I ask that you continue to hold these updates so that the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, that is placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas throughout the state. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo Piha,


Christy Kajiwaru Gusman
(808) 870-3219

[EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Wayne Tanaka <wayne.tanaka@sierraclub.org>

Mon 6/24/2024 4:23 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

📎 1 attachments (218 KB)

BOA Sierra Club Testimony Item IV1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates 062424.pdf;

Aloha,

Please find attached the testimony of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i on Item IV.1 for tomorrow's agenda.

Mahalo!

Wayne

--

Wayne Chung Tanaka, Director (he/him/'oia)

sierraclubhawaii.org | 808-538-6616

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i only exists because of the support of people like you! Make a donation today and 100% of your contributions will go to the Hawai'i Chapter. Mahalo nui!



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

Testimony to
Board of Agriculture

June 25, 2024

9:00 AM

PQB Conference Room

Offering COMMENTS on VI.1:

INVASIVE SPECIES ACTION PLAN UPDATES

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i offers the following **comments** regarding the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's (HDOA's) invasive species action plan updates.

First, the Sierra Club appreciates the placement of this informational item on the Board of Agriculture (BOA) agenda and urges the BOA to ensure that this remains a regular agenda item. The proliferation of coconut rhinoceros beetles on O'ahu and their ongoing spread across Kaua'i, the continual discoveries of little fire ants on neighbor islands and across O'ahu where they have not been previously found, and the omnipresent risk of new invasive species introductions all attest to the critical and long-neglected need for the HDOA to execute its statutory responsibilities and mandates to study, manage, and control or eradicate pests, including those that may have irreversible impacts on our food security, ecological and cultural integrity, public health, economy, and overall quality of life.¹

Most recently, it appears that the lack of a comprehensive action plan may have been the basis for the Governor's justification for his intent to veto a bill HDOA officials described as "landmark" legislation, which would appropriate nearly \$20M to the HDOA to assist in the all-hands-on-deck fight against invasive pest species.²

The Sierra Club accordingly urges the BOA to continue holding regular updates on the HDOA's invasive species action plan(s), including their implementation as well as resource and other needs, to demonstrate to the BOA, key decisionmakers, and the public whether and how the HDOA can sufficiently protect our shared interests in mitigating the potentially devastating impacts of invasive pests.

¹ See HRS §§ 141-1, -2, -3, -3.5 ("The department of agriculture shall develop and implement a detailed control or eradication program for any pest designated in section 141-3" (emphasis added)).

² Chad Blair, *Green Plans to Veto Bills to Curb Emergency Powers and Shore Up State's Rainy Day Fund*, HONOLULU CIVIL BEAT, June 21, 2024, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/06/green-plans-to-veto-bills-to-curb-emergency-powers-and-shore-up-states-rainy-day-fund/> ("While Green says he strongly supports the bill's intent, he may veto the bill over concerns over appropriate funding levels that are 'feasible and executable' by the DOA.")

Second, the Sierra Club similarly emphasizes the importance of the HDOA and BOA using their full range of regulatory tools authorized by statute, as a key part of any invasive species action plan. To this end, the Sierra Club further emphasizes how widespread community biosecurity efforts have already been continually confounded by “bad actor” businesses that refuse to stop selling plants and other products, even when they have been found to be infested with invasive pests. The HDOA has pointed to their lack of rule provisions to order the quarantine of products from such businesses and as a result, the Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals and the BOA itself supported the promulgation of comprehensive pest quarantine rules, along with other critically needed biosecurity regulations, with the BOA’s approval for a public hearing on such rules granted in February 2023.

Nonetheless, the HDOA did not hold this public hearing until the end of January 2024, nearly an entire year later; despite overwhelming if not unanimous public support at that hearing, as well as subsequent, voluminous testimonies to the state legislature similarly urging the need for stronger quarantine and biosecurity measures, there has been no further action on these rules since that time.

The Sierra Club notes that the Hawai‘i constitution requires the state and its agencies and entities, including the HDOA and the BOA, to take proactive action to protect our cultural and natural public trust resources, Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, as well as the public’s right to a healthful environment – all of which are being jeopardized by the ongoing lack of rules to regulate the intra-state sale and movement of commodities infested with invasive pest species.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai‘i strongly urges the BOA to urge HDOA to bring the proposed rule amendments to HAR §4-72 for review and approval no later than the next regularly scheduled BOA meeting.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this matter.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Meagan Ostrem <meagano10@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 5:52 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

My name is Meagan Ostrem from Kailua. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Please take the action needed to help address the crisis of invasive species we are currently (and will continue to) experience in our island home. While some of these species have reached levels of maintenance or contained control on some islands, significant action can still help other islands from the detrimental effects of invasive species. Rather than seeking out perfect balance for the rules amendment, please pass the amendment as is before even more damage is done. It is devastating to know that LFA could have been prevented from reaching other islands if proper controls were in place. We know this is not the last time Hawaii will be threatened by invasive species and with strong action we may have a fighting chance against the next pest that attempts to make our islands its home. Please do all that you can to prevent the further spread of invasive species and the introduction of new ones.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Meagan ostrem

Sent from my iPhone

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Lana Vali <me@lanavali.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 5:44 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

To Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Lana Vali, from Ha'ena, Kaua'i. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Thank you,
Lana

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Lana Vali
(808) 634-6240
me@lanavali.com

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Patti Choy <halamango@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 12:21 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

We need action on combatting invasive species right now. Please start moving on tackling the real issues that are stalling any meaningful implementation of strategies that will protect our islands for generations to come.

Thank you for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands.

Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.



I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

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rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Patrice Choy
Honolulu
 Shut Down Red Hill
 Not Pau Yet!

[EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY RE: IV.1 Request on the Transfer of Public Lands

kimeona kane <kimeonakane@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 12:15 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha nui e Chair Hurd and Members of the Board,

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony on the following agenda item:

IV. COMMUNICATIONS FROM DIVISIONS AND ADMINISTRATION A. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT DIVISION 1. Request on the Transfer of Public Lands from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to the Department of Agriculture Pursuant to Act 90, SLH 2003, Codified as Chapter 166E, Hawaii Revised Statutes and Conversion from a DLNR to an HDOA Lease; TMK Nos.: (1) 4-1-008:054 and 059; Waimanalo, Koolaupoko, Island of Oahu, Hawaii

The processes involved with Act 90 have been absent from community discussions for several unfortunate reasons, however, they are critically important. I am deeply concerned that this process skips over several opportunities to truly engage the community. There are parcels within the inventory that hold cultural and sensitive sites, cultural resources, and food sustainability opportunities, among others. For many years, Waimānalo inventory has slowly been under siege, and sadly, the community is left with little opportunity to participate. Meetings like today's, are inconveniently scheduled during a normal work week, and yes, while we are allowed to opt in to submitting written testimony, and participate on Zoom, there is tremendous value in an in person discussion. It is concerning that while we do have a process of engaging the public, via the Neighborhood Board system here on Oahu, items like this go unshared through that platform and that should not be the case. It feels like these systems are intended to pass quietly behind the eyes of community, who are the greatest stake holders in my humble opinion.

I strongly believe that a Ka Pa'akai Analysis should be conducted with the current community for these types of land transfers. For many decades, some of these lands have been out of reach for cultural practitioners, like myself, threatened with trespassing. We know that map making and surveying has not always been done with the highest degree of integrity, and therefore the true nature and status of cultural resources have been removed from cultural people. A Ka Pa'akai Analysis, should create access to determine the status of those cultural resources that may be present, as well as provide an alternative outcome for the future management of said resources.

Furthermore, it is imperative that mapping technologies used today honors the recognition of CROWN LANDS, which Waimānalo is known to have had. Sadly, that type of recognition is threatened. There have been documented circumstances that we as a community have called attention to, where one version of the map will list the parcel as Crown Land, and an updated one, lists it as State of Hawai'i or something else. This is especially concerning, and Crown Lands must ALWAYS be honored as such, and with this type of disregard, how are we as the public, able to build any type of trust.

The recent development activity near the base of Olomana calls attention to a strong reality that decisions are being made without the considerations of preservation. Olomana, Paku'i, Ahiki, three peaks, famed, and center for many cultural sites which surround them. A watershed, neglected by protections from DLNR, now sits as HDOA and other opportunities, which are tremendously concerning. In a time where conservation of water is so important, we are allowing for the flattening of the hillsides for development, this is criminal, and it serves as a challenge to the water shed, water collection, hydrology, and replenishing of water into our system. This has nothing to personally do with the leasee, however, it has a lot to do with the way in which the land is being managed. We must do better to conserve land. This transfer may seem pretty easy breezy, with little to no threats, however it sets a low expectation for the future swaps that one may entertain, and it should be addressed differently. Where are the management plans, the business models, the sustainability plans etc. that would allow for the best use of the land? Who is reviewing this? How are folks able to see them? All of these questions surrounding what may seem to be a "simple" land transfer. What is the basis of the transfer? Why has DLNR backed out? I am deeply concerned and hope to see resolve, the new plots at Olomana came with significant opposition, yet here we are, parceling them off for what could inevitably be gentlemen farms, a rude disregard for the value of land, and one that plagues our community just as much as short term rentals.

Mahalo nui for your time.

--

'O wau nō me ka ha'aha'a,

Kimeona Kane

Chair- Waimānalo Neighborhood Board

808 398 8989

kimeonakane@gmail.com

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[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Joseph Wat <joew@keyproject.org>

Mon 6/24/2024 11:44 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Joe Wat from Windward O‘ahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department’s Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands’ ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been “in the works” for nearly a year and a half since the Board’s original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

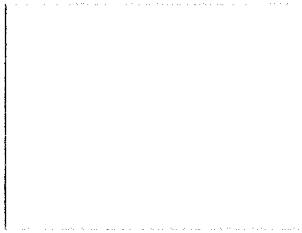
These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. **It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods** - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

The Department of Agriculture has an obligation to protect the general public from agricultural businesses that are operating as public nuisances. DLNR shuts down and fines illegally operating kayak rentals, Department of Health shuts down restaurants that make people sick, and HDOA needs to recognize that, as a Department of the State of Hawai‘i, they will be forced to make decisions that have a temporary negative affect on an agricultural business for the sake of preserving Hawai‘is livelihood. Each plant put into the ground from an Little Fire Ant infested nursery adds up to over a year of treatment to eradicate with countless boots-on-the-ground hours required to delimit, build community rapport, and monitor. The cost to a single business (or even ten businesses) pales in comparison to the cost to the people of Hawai‘i in pesticides, wildlife pushed to extinction, tourist revenue, changes to lifestyle and gathering abilities. While there are many transformative changes required to effectively manage the current invasive species situation in Hawai‘i, cutting off the source of new infestations is a NECESSARY and LONG OVERDUE step in the right direction. Every single citizen of Hawai‘i will benefit immensely from the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture taking steps towards strong agricultural oversight in nurseries and landscaping businesses.


Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

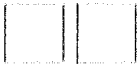
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Joe Wat
Community Development Coordinator
KEY Project

 808 239 5777

 keyproject.org



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[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

kimeona kane <kimeonakane@gmail.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 11:39 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

Kimeona Kane from Waimānalo. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

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It is no secret that I support measures to help our communities, while holding a higher degree of expectation and accountability for the State, Department, Legislature, County, Businesses and others. It is with this level of concern that I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

It is now more than ever, the appropriate time to take ALL the necessary steps towards the goals of controlling and eradicating invasive species. This also highlights a need for additional review on the rules. I found recently that the Department has no enforcement action options to correct for excessive volumes of mulch piles sitting on properties. In a time like now, we must address these occurrences, and keep a door open to make adjustments quickly ensuring that we preserve the best of Hawai'i for all time.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to share my thoughts on this critical topic.

--

'O wau nō me ka ha'aha'a,

Kimeona Kane

808 398 8989

kimeonakane@gmail.com

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[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Sharde Freitas <skmfreitas@gmail.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 11:22 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Sharde Freitas, and I live in Hilo. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Hawai'i Island has already endured so much with invasive species with little fire ants and coqui to name just a couple of examples. My kids have been bitten by little fire ants, and it is sad and upsetting to know that a lot of the impacts we are experiencing from these invasive pests can be mitigated with your continued work and progress towards the quarantine rule amendments.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Sharde Freitas, Esq., MPH

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

davidsher@juno.com <davidsher@juno.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 3:50 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

We must address the disgraceful and disastrous practices currently allowed by a few bad actors that continue to sell products they know are infested with little fire ants (LFA) and coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB). Any further delays by the Department of Agriculture towards the actions needed to address this critical issue is both shameful and unacceptable.

I urge you to ensure the Department of Agriculture upholds its responsibility to take effective action to eradicate invasive LFA and other pests from our islands, and moves forward on the rule amendments that have been in the works for nearly a year and half waiting for Board action.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Sherry Pollack
Ahuimanu

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Jamie <jameson221@gmail.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 11:53 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Jamie. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Jamie

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Uilani Naipo <uilani.naipo@me.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 10:44 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc:U'ilani Naipo <uilani.naipo@me.com>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is U'ilani Naipo from Pana'ewa, Waiākea of the Moku O Keawe. Mahalo to the Board and the Department for the Invasive Species Action Plan and providing updates. The lack of and delayed comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for mitigation, control and eradication (legally mandated), has contributed to the significant spread of invasive species and their destructive impacts across our islands.

The impact to my 'ohana is not just physically being a burden but invasive species separates us kanaka from our traditional and customary practices. No longer in my neighborhood do I see keiki playing and picnicing in their yards or climbing trees. I am a weaver and fire ants infest my hala trees and are they are threatened by hala scale. I am a farmer and fire ants infest our fruit trees. When we moved onto our property 13 years ago, we immediately planted niu trees. Several had suffered a type of fungus rot and now is threatened by coconut rhinoceros beetle. I am extremely concerned about the niu trees of my ancestral land in South Kona and urge you to ensure that the Department promptly does all it can to eradicate these invasive species:

- amend quarantine rules with much needed measures and tools;
- require incoming quarantine at nurseries and landscaping businesses;
- monitor nurseries and place on notice (just as the health department does for restaurants);
- continue to provide public updates and community assistance.

It would be a sad day in history if our landscape and legacy is re-written due to invasive species.

I urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

Mahalo nui for this opportunity to testify.

U'ilani Naipo

uilani.naipo@me.com

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Kirsten Oleson <kirstenllo@gmail.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 9:53 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Kirsten from Ka'ōhāo, O'ahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

I live in an area where we have been fighting Little Fire Ants. I worry for my children, who used to be able to safely play in the park and at the beach where LFA now are. LFA affects residents, but also will strangle tourism. Please take immediate action.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

.....

Kirsten L. L. Oleson

kirstenllo@gmail.com

1-808-375-1790

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Megan Gonsalves <meganngonsalves3@gmail.com>

Mon 6/24/2024 9:44 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Megan and I live in Honolulu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

In my experience working with producers across O'ahu, I have seen the devastating impact that these pests have already had on the agricultural community. I remember when CRB was found on the first farm on the North Shore, and the speed at which it spread seems largely due to companies being allowed to continue to sell infected mulch and plants. Now I rarely visit a farm that has not been impacted.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Megan Gonsalves

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Noah Humphrey <noah.humphrey@aya.yale.edu>

Mon 6/24/2024 6:52 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Noah Humphrey from Oahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods—especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Connection to the land, or 'aina, is central to our identity and well-being. Indigenous healing practices emphasize the importance of maintaining and restoring this connection. To prevent further harm and destruction of our precious 'aina, proactive measures must be taken to circumvent the devastation these pests are causing.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Noah Humphrey

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Julie Rivers <riversja@outlook.com>

Sun 6/23/2024 9:54 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Julie Rivera from Kaimuki, Oahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

As a conservation biologist I have been shocked at how little funding and mechanisms we have in place to do the work. We need your help and resources to prevent, control and eradicate invasives. We need inter-island bio security protocols ... especially as the endangered species capital of the world. Please!

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Julie Rivers

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Mariko Whitenack <marikowhitenack@gmail.com>

Sun 6/23/2024 6:58 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Mariko from Kaimukī. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

I have spent time helping Ka'ala Farm in Wai'anae construct scaffolding to access the crown of their remaining coconut trees to protect them from coconut rhinoceros beetle with netting and basil oil. These trees are a fraction of the coconut groves that once grew on the farm before they were decimated by CRB. Members of the community are working so hard to protect their trees from invasive insects. The Board of Agriculture needs to do its part.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Lenley Lewis <lenleyl@gmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 4:49 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

To the Board of Agriculture,

Mahalo for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The lack of a comprehensive management strategy has contributed to the wide spread and negative impact of invasive species across the Hawaiian Islands.

I urge the Board to pass the proposed management strategy for pests such as the coconut beetle and little fire ants along with the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been under consideration for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing.

Businesses like nurseries and landscaping and lawn care can spread invasive pests into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. Measures should be put in place to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods.

Here on the Hamakua Coast we constantly battle fire ants, which interfere with quality of life and enjoyment of farming and gardening. Other pests threaten coffee production and pastureland.

I urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at the next meeting.

Regulatory tools are needed to assist current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests.

*Mahalo,
Lenley Lewis
Laupahoehoe*

Sent from my iPhone

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Boisvert-Jorgensen <infofordenise@yahoo.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 3:27 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

“Try Wait” is not the best strategy to use to fight invasive species!

The status quo strategy appears to be more like a welcome committee rolling out the red carpet to little fire ants, the coconut rhinoceros beetle, coqui frogs, and so many other invasive pests and noxious weeds that are spreading all over the islands, than to enact ways to truly protect the environment.

Have we not learned any lessons from the devastation caused by the invasive species already here, and how quickly they have spread?

It makes one wonder in astonishment why the intra and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72 have not already been approved. Let’s “Try Act Now” so future generations don’t have to wonder, “What on Earth were they thinking?”

This delay on the proposed amendments makes it seem like the Board doesn’t really care; please prove me wrong.

Sincerely,

Denise Boisvert

Honolulu

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Donna Jaecker <mauigirl45.5@gmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 3:08 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

My personal experience: I travel between California and Hawaii (specifically, Maui) frequently. Going and coming, my luggage is inspected for plant material. This has been going on for many years. I don't know how effective the effort is. Ag material such as flowers being shipped to California is rigorously inspected. My point - there is an awareness of how serious movement of infected and/or invasive plant material is. Over 78 years of life on Maui I've seen the effects of beetle-carrying disease to eucalyptus, as well as gorse, black berries, fire weed, and axis deer in pastures.

All ag entities should be reminded frequently of the threat to the islands of invasive insects and plants. The general public should also be made aware of the problems and should be a part of the state's monitoring system.

Donna Jaecker, land owner.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Waikiki - Hawaii Condo <hawaiiicondo@yahoo.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 2:53 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

A wise frog (not a coqui) named Kermit once sang, "It's not easy being green". He may have been talking about his looks, but his statement was far-reaching.

It is not enough to simply recycle, and to not waste water, and to stop polluting the air and water around us.

It takes courage and conviction to battle extremely fierce opponents such as the formidable coconut rhinoceros beetle and fire ants, and the too many other invasive species and noxious weeds that are already thriving in Hawaii.

Please have the courage and conviction to do whatever steps are necessary so the intra and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72 are urgently, wholly, and finally approved.

While these critical rule amendments basically languish on your back burner, unidentified, unethical nurseries and merchants continue to prioritize financial gain over the destruction caused by the unbridled transfer of invasive pests throughout the state. **It may not be easy being green, but it seems very easy to be greedy, especially without strict rules!**

Please kindly confirm receipt of this testimony.

Mahalo,

Kim Jorgensen

Honolulu

[EXTERNAL] Quarantine Rules

Chris Wooding <woodingchris4@gmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 11:00 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture:

My name is Christine Wooding from Haiku, Maui. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed to the spread of invasive species.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

On Maui, the coconut rhinoceros beetle is showing up more and more, and we have to be constantly vigilant for the little fire ant.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Thanks for the opportunity to testify.

Christine M Wooding
460 Kekoanui Place, Haiku

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 invasive species action plan updates

T Jenkins <jenkinsohana2@gmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 10:48 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Tammy from Ewa Beach, Oahu. I first want to thank the Board and Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan.

The longstanding lack of comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands.

Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crisis, which are placing our islands ecosystems, farms , economy, quality of life, people and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra and inter island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72.

These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all hands on deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive species pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested foods, especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,
Tammy Jenkins

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

dmckgreen@gmail.com <dmckgreen@gmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 4:52 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Drew from Haleiwa. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

I have seen firsthand the damages of these pests on crops and native species at the kokua learning farm, north shore community land trust sites, and other independently owned farms.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

nan harter <nharter@hotmail.com>

Sat 6/22/2024 4:46 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Nancy from Lahaina. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

I also urge the Board to recognize that actions by both the department and by our communities to deal with invasive pests will continue to be severely undermined, without the intra- and inter-island quarantine requirements proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72. These rule amendments have been "in the works" for nearly a year and a half since the Board's original approval to move them to public hearing, and they still have not been brought back for Board action since their public hearing in January.

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Pete Wilson <perhansahi@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 9:52 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Pete from Pahoa. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

--

Pete Wilson

13-927 Kahukai Street

Pahoa HI 96778

808-557-8108

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Robert Culbertson <dancingcloudrefuge@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 9:15 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Rob Culbertson from the Honokaa area of the Big Island. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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My experience as a field technician with BIISC trying to stop Coqui frogs on this island taught me the value of 'an ounce of prevention'. Unfortunately, that often cited value fails to get enacted when the chips are down in the global commercial landscape (and wildlife!) trade. It's time to change that!

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Rob Culbertson
Honokaa

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

lori poaipuni <lori.poaipuni@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 8:55 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Lori from Wailuku. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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Hawai'i will no longer be a special place if you continue to be passive and allow invasive species to desecrate the land and our native species of plants and animals. We've already lost so much to foreign pests and non-native plants, that some landscapes are no longer recognizable. To continue to not make public the businesses that contribute to the problem is baffling. We need you to act on Hawai'i's behalf, create and enact strong policies to discontinue big box stores, landscapers, etc., in putting the dollar ahead of our Hawai 'i.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify,

Loriann N. Poaipuni

[EXTERNAL]

Angela Huntmer <angelahuntemer@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 8:33 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Dear Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

Thanks for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has contributed to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems at risk.**

We need intra- and inter-island quarantine rule admendments proposed for HAR Chapter 4-72..

These quarantine rules are essential to the current all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to be found in new areas and on new islands. Businesses like nurseries and landscapers are a major vector for the spread of invasive pests, including into new areas, or regions where they had been previously eradicated. It is unacceptable that there are no current measures to prevent businesses from knowingly selling infested goods - especially when the Department keeps our communities in the dark regarding which businesses have known infestations.

The impact of CRB on our native palms is unacceptable. Please bring **the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting.** These long overdue regulatory tools are needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo,

Angela Huntmer, Kahuku, Oahu.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Cheryl B <burgharc@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 7:12 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Cheryl Burghardt from Kou, O`ahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

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I do not have personal experience with these invasive pests. However, as a community member, I feel that it is important to do everything we can to protect our home. We are unique, islands and need to do everything we can to stop these pests.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Cheryl Burghardt

Kou, O`ahu

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

John Shockley <shockleyjr@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 4:22 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Cc:Rita Shockley <eartoeargrin@gmail.com>;Wayne (O'ahu Sierra Club) Tanaka <hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

Our names are John & Rita Shockley from Makakilo. We first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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We have many trees dead and dying from Rhino-beetles in our neighborhood. We cannot "HOPE" something will happen. We need direct action from you. Even if you have to "step on toes" of big nurseries, you must do the Pono thing for the people of Hawaii before it's too late!

Accordingly, we respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

*John & Rita Shockley. Coordinators. Free Access Coalition
www.freeaccesscoalition.weebly.com*

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

d g <danilfrisco@gmail.com>

Fri 6/21/2024 3:46 PM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Danielle Guion, from Makakilo, O'ahu, Hawaii. The lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands.

Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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I teach at the public elementary schools and have seen children being bitten and stung by ants. Please don't allow this to worsen with the likes of Little Fire Ants.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Cassandra Chee <cassandralchee@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 8:00 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Cassandra Chee from Liliha. I volunteer at Ka‘ōnohi farm in Kalauao, Ewa. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department’s Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands’ ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

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Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Cassandra Chee

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Danielle Espiritu <dfk.espiritu@gmail.com>

Tue 6/25/2024 7:44 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Danielle Espiritu from Waimalu, 'Ewa, O'ahu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.

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Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit testimony.

ke aloha,
Danielle Espiritu

[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

Kristen Young <kyoung@hcucc.org>

Tue 6/25/2024 8:05 AM

To:HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Kristen and I'm from Honolulu. I first want to thank the Board and the Department for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plan. The longstanding lack of a comprehensive pest management strategy, including plans for control and eradication as required by law, has surely contributed significantly to the spread of invasive species and their deleterious impacts across our islands. **Please continue to hold these updates so that the Board and the public can be informed of the actions being planned and taken to deal with our invasive species crises, which are placing our islands' ecosystems, farms, economy, quality of life, people, and pets at risk.**

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I regularly volunteer at a farm and I know that invasive pests are a great threat to the crops and ability to harvest, produce, and eat. Much time goes into crops to be able to harvest quality produce and pests can ruin all of it and drastically change the timeline, keeping food from being produced for the community.

Accordingly, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting, and give itself the long-overdue regulatory tools needed to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Kristen