



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 15, 2017 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 776 SD2 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 776 SD2, which restructures the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council as the Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority, administratively attached to the department of agriculture, to coordinate implementation of the Hawaii interagency biosecurity plan and to improve coordination of the State's invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, enforcement, and outreach programs; and appropriates funds to implement the authority and relevant interagency invasive species projects.

The University of Hawai'i is a member of the interagency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and will remain a member under the restructuring proposed in SB 776 SD2. We support this restructuring and attachment to the Department of Agriculture, and believe that it will strengthen efforts to prevent and control invasive pests, plants, and plant diseases in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the effort to testify in support of SB 776 SD2.