Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture/Higher Education
Wednesday, March 23, 2011 at 10:00am
By
Virginia Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Sylvia Yuen
Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

HR 77/HCR 84  Requesting the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the
University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, to convene
a working group to evaluate the current laws, rules, and standards of practice regarding
high risk plants requiring intervention.

Chair Tsuji and Nishimoto, and members of the Committees on Agriculture and Higher
Education: thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR 77/HCR 84, which requests
the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with the University of Hawai‘i College of
Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, to convene a working group to evaluate the
current laws, rules, and standards of practice regarding high risk plants requiring
intervention. I am Sylvia Yuen, Interim Dean and Director of the College of Tropical
Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

While we agree with the intent of HR 77/HCR 84, there are several areas of concern in
the resolution. First, although the Department of Agriculture (DOA) is tasked with
convening the working group that will carry out the charges in the resolution, the DOA is
not specifically identified to serve as a member of the working group. Second, although
the resolution recognizes that invasive plants are a threat to Hawai‘i’s horticultural,
aquacultural, and livestock industries, those groups and other relevant entities are not
represented on the working group. And third, some of the tasks identified in the
resolution may be duplicative or may be better performed by a committee presently
established by the DOA. However, the DOA is in a better position to determine whether
the responsibilities, membership, and activities of the aforementioned committee would
be appropriate to the tasks delineated in HR 77/HCR 84.

For the reasons cited above, we cannot support these resolutions as currently written.