



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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### Written Testimony Only

Submitted to the

Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment

Tuesday, March 24, 2015 at 3:30 pm

By

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And

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### HB 1040 HD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1040 HD1, which appropriates moneys to the HISC to contract UHERO to establish an economic model formula to establish impact and cost of mitigating the most significant invasive species in the State; and directs the LRB to update its 2002 study to reflect costs and impact of mitigation efforts.

Invasive species pose significant threats to agriculture, natural resources, and human and animal health and well-being in Hawai'i. A recent study by the Department of Agriculture reported an average of 24 new insect species introduced to Hawai'i each year. In addition, invasive plant species threaten our native forests (e.g., miconia), and animal health (e.g., fire weed). Many of the resources of the University of Hawai'i are dedicated to combating these threats.

HB 1040 HD1 would provide funding to HISC to contract with UHERO to continue and update the FY15 study of the costs of the most significant invasive species in the State; and would also direct the Legislative Reference Bureau to update its 2002 study of the impact and costs of invasive species in Hawai'i, an action requested in a number of bills this session and one that we support as a member of the HISC. The 2002 study has provided a solid basis for state action for over a decade, but needs to be updated to reflect the current situation.

Thank you for the opportunity to indicate our support for HB1040 HD1.