



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
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By
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HB 1086 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection, we respectfully submit testimony in support of HB 1086, which requires the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) to update the economic and environmental costs component of its 2002 study on invasive species, and makes an appropriation for that purpose.

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, particularly in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, are dedicated to combating these threats.

As a member of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Coordinating Council, the University of Hawai'i supports the actions recommended in HB 1086. The 2002 study of the impact of invasive species in Hawai'i performed by the Legislative Reference Bureau 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 testify in support of HB 1086.