

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GARY GILL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

October 28, 2014

SUBMITTAL

TO: Co-chairs and Members
Hawaii Invasive Species Council
State of Hawaii

FROM: Joshua Atwood, Invasive Species Coordinator
Hawaii Invasive Species Council / Department of Land and Natural Resources

SUBJECT: Requesting a Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) study to update the 2002 LRB report, *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species* that describes the current capacity and funding needs to address invasive species issues in Hawaii

Background

In response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 45 H.D. 1 (2001), the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) prepared a report titled *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*. This document, published in 2002, provided a clear description of the invasive species problem in Hawaii, and identified associated economic costs, environmental impacts, and health issues. The 2002 report further identified state, county, and federal agencies having responsibilities related to invasive species, assessed gaps in invasive species management, and estimated the total annual cost of addressing invasive species in Hawaii across all state, county, and federal programs.

A key recommendation from the 2002 report was the creation of an interagency council modeled after the National Invasive Species Council. The report was critical to the establishment of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) in 2003, and the information regarding the cost of funding invasive species programs has been a key reference point for advocating for interagency funding for the HISC.

In the 12 years since the LRB published *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*, the invasive species problem in Hawaii has changed substantially. New pests have arrived within Hawaii, such as the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle, Myoporum thrips, and devil weed. Some species that were present in Hawaii in 2002 in limited areas, such as the Little Fire Ant, have drastically increased their geographic range within the State. The organizational and fiscal landscape of invasive species management has also changed since 2002. The HISC has become an active mechanism for establishing invasive species policy as well as a primary funder of interagency projects. Over the same time period, federal funding for invasive species programs in Hawaii has declined, and capacity for core State functions such as agricultural inspection and vector control have seen drastic changes.

A new LRB study, building upon the data generated by their 2002 report, would provide a critical update to this foundational document. This information would document areas of progress or regress since the publication of the 2002 study, and would help identify current management gaps. An updated estimate of the total cost needed to address invasive species across federal, state, and county programs would provide critical data to support budgetary requests and would allow the HISC to strategically address resource shortfalls.

Requested Action

A draft HISC resolution is attached to this submittal. This resolution would request that the LRB produce a new report building upon the 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

GARY GILL
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, PhD
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTION 14-2

REQUESTING A LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU STUDY TO UPDATE THE 2002 REPORT TITLED "FILLING THE GAPS IN THE FIGHT AGAINST INVASIVE SPECIES"

WHEREAS, the Legislative Reference Bureau, in response to Senate Concurrent Resolution 45 H.D. 1 (2001), published a 2002 report titled *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species*; and

WHEREAS, this report has provided critical data regarding the costs associated with invasive species, funding needed to address invasive species issues, and key recommendations for filling organizational gaps associated with invasive species management; and

WHEREAS, the invasive species problem in Hawaii has changed substantially since the publication of this report in 2002; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council requests that the Legislative Reference Bureau undertake a new study to update their 2002 report *Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species* to reflect the current state of the invasive species problem in Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council suggests that the new study provide updated information within the areas addressed by the original 2002 report, including but not limited to:

1. The scope of the invasive species problem on global and local levels
2. The economic and environmental costs to Hawaii associated with invasive species
3. Health and safety issues for Hawaii associated with invasive species
4. State and federal agencies having responsibilities concerning the invasive species problem
5. Gaps and leaks in the present system
6. Funding for invasive species programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii, the President of the State Senate, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and the director of the Legislative Reference Bureau.

Adopted by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council on the following date: _____

William J. Aila, Jr., Dept. of Land & Natural Resources

Scott Enright, Dept. of Agriculture

Gary Gill, Dept. of Health

David Rodriguez, Dept. of Transportation

Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning, Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Maria Gallo, Ph.D., University of Hawaii