

State of Hawaii  
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL  
Honolulu, Hawaii

January 19, 2006

Chairpersons and Members  
Hawaii Invasive Species Council  
State of Hawaii  
Honolulu, Hawaii

Council Members:

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE  
INVASIVE SPECIES RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE  
GOVERNOR'S ECONOMIC MOMENTUM COMMISSION

This council submittal approves a resolution in support of the invasive species recommendations of the Governor's Economic Momentum Commission.

BACKGROUND:

The Economic Momentum Commission was established to develop an action plan to sustain the state's current economic momentum over the longer term. The Commission was formed by Governor Linda Lingle and includes the bipartisan support of the Senate President and Speaker of the House, both of whom serve as commissioners, as well as other legislative and elected leaders and representatives from small and large businesses, labor unions, non-profit, environmental, cultural and educational organizations, government and the military.

The Commission envisions a holistic approach to sustaining the economy of Hawaii. Central to the core of this vision are all the people of Hawaii. The eleven categories of recommendations reflect the Commission's strong sentiment that economic growth should go hand in hand with improvements to Hawaii's quality of life. The Commission acknowledges these recommendations are not all-inclusive; its goal was to adopt recommendations that could be implemented within a relatively short time frame. They have specifically designed the process to encourage public/stakeholder recommendations and comments. The Commission's web site is [www.emc-hawaii.com](http://www.emc-hawaii.com).

Commission Recommendations

**VIII. Environment**

Another major threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, health and lifestyle is the continuous introduction of invasive weeds, animals, insects and diseases. The cost to control invasive species already in Hawaii, such as termites, fruit flies and Miconia, runs in the hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The cost of prevention of invasive species has been

shown repeatedly to be exponentially less than the cost to control pests once established. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) carries the State's responsibility for border inspections, yet is well below capacity to carry out these duties adequately.

The Commission **recommends** a review of user fees from importers/shippers to ensure these fees are adequate to properly fund the needed prevention and quarantine programs. Additionally, we should revise state plant import regulations to include an "approved list" approach for new plant introductions.

The above recommendations support the following goals and tasks from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's *Interim State of Hawaii Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach*:

- Review risks of pest entry into the State and to assist in the setting of priorities to prevent entry of high-risk pests.
- Determine how best to prevent the entry of new pests with shared resources and shared responsibilities of all agencies.
- Reprioritize inspection and quarantine services for goods imported to the State based on new data provided by the Kahului Airport Pest Risk Assessment.
- Identify specific improvements to quarantine inspection of domestic cargo and passenger arrivals at Hawaii ports.
- Identify species that are at high risk of being introduced to the State or being spread within the State by illegal trade.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council resolve to support the Governor's Economic Momentum Commission's recommendations concerning invasive species: 1) a review of user fees from importers/shippers to ensure these fees are adequate to properly fund the needed prevention and quarantine programs, and 2) revision of state plant import regulations to include an "approved list" approach for new plant introductions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Executive Director  
The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii