

LINDA LINGLE  
Governor

JAMES R. AIONA  
Lieutenant Governor



# Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Co-Chairs:  
PETER T. YOUNG  
SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO

MEMBERS:

Theodore E. Liu  
Chiyome L. Fukino M. D.  
Rodney Haraga  
David McClain, Ph. D.

PARTICIPANTS:

Micah A. Kane  
Major General Robert G.F. Lee  
Mark E. Recktenwald

COUNTIES:

Mayor Alan Arakawa  
Mayor Bryan J. Baptiste  
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Mayor Harry Kim

FEDERAL:

U.S. Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Department of Defense

## HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION

Resolution 06-1  
January 19, 2006

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE HAWAI'I INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION ACT, H.R. 3468

Congressman Ed Case introduced a bill to require the same or greater level of federal inspection of all visitor and cargo shipments arriving in Hawai'i from domestic and foreign locations as now exists for outgoing traffic. He said the measure was the only way to overcome "a true crisis" caused by rapidly accelerating introduction of invasive species and diseases that are devastating Hawai'i's flora and fauna and costing the state millions of dollars in agricultural losses, export costs, and other expenses.

"My bill, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Prevention Act, may be condensed into this simple statement: what is good for the U.S. mainland should be good for Hawai'i," said Case, a member of the House Agriculture Committee. "Current federal inspections protect the U.S. mainland from insect pests in Hawai'i. But Hawai'i, which has the greatest number of endemic endangered species of any state in the nation, doesn't enjoy similar protection."

Case states that the bill is needed particularly because the state, as the transportation crossroads of the Pacific, has been hamstrung by existing federal laws that preempt state efforts to control the movement of goods and requirements that states consider regulatory burdens imposed on commerce.

In response to those obstacles, Case's bill:

- States that it is U.S. policy to fund and support efforts to control and prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species into Hawai'i and no federal agency may take action to counter that policy;
- Directs the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior to implement a comprehensive system in Hawai'i of post-arrival protocols for all persons, baggage, cargo, containers, packing materials, and other items traveling or being shipped to Hawai'i from domestic or foreign locations.

Case said a similarly comprehensive system is already in place in New Zealand, which is comparable to Hawai'i because of its remoteness and high and exposed endemic species. New Zealand "white lists" permissible import species but bans everything else, and conducts inspections of arrivals. But ironically, Hawai'i, which has a much more acute overall problem than either the U.S. mainland or New Zealand, has found it very difficult to fashion and implement a similar prevention regime under current law.

The bill supports the following statements from the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's *Interim State of Hawai'i Strategic Plan for Invasive Species Prevention, Control, Research and Public Outreach*:

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- Increase inspection and other prevention capabilities to prevent high-risk invasive species and diseases...from entry into the state...
- An integrated action and funding plan that incorporates contributions from...federal...sources is needed to provide focus and fiscal resources for the ongoing invasive species prevention and control programs.
- Coordinate efforts with federal agencies to maximize resources and reduce or eliminate system gaps and leaks...
- Request APHIS [USDA] to screen domestic traffic into Hawai'i for living plant material (similar to the screening that takes place between Hawai'i and the mainland now).

Recommendation: That the council resolve to support the Hawai'i Invasive Species Prevention Act, H.R. 3468, sponsored by Congressman Ed Case.

Action: Approved.