

LATE TESTIMONY FOR HISC Meeting – June 9, 2021
Support for HISC Resolution 21-1

“Aloha,

My name is Andy Cullison, and I would like to strongly support the efforts in the planning, construction, and operation of Pacific Regional Biocontrol Facilities. I work for the state’s Division of Forestry and Wildlife as a planner, specifically assisting current biological control projects through testing and environmental compliance. As someone who works on biological control projects every day, and as someone who has visited current facilities, I see the need and benefits that improved facilities and operational support can bring to biocontrol capacity in the state. In speaking with current researchers, there are projects for some of our most impactful invasive species, such as miconia and albizia, that are not possible because of limited space and capacity within testing facilities. Modern biocontrol has had an extremely safe track record for the last 50 years, and continued focus on host specific organisms greatly decreases chances of non-target impacts. Land managers in the field are often asking us where and how come a specific weed does not have a biocontrol, and often the response is the limited facilities and capacity to do research and environmental review. It is time we as a state invest in the most cost efficient and effective tool available to help control widespread invasive species.

Andy Cullison”

Thanks!

Andy