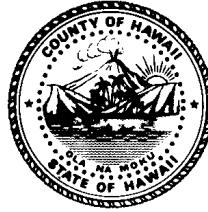


Harry Kim
Mayor



Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 9, 2020

Kenekoa/Senator Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Luna Ho'omaluku/Chair
Kenekoa/Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Hope Luna Ho'omaluku/Vice Chair
Committee on Hawaiian Affairs

Dear Chair Shimabukuro, Vice Chair Kahele, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 2015, HD1 Relating to Invasive Species

HB 2015, HD1 is a valuable bill, as the control of this invasive species is very important, not only to the environment on the upper slopes of Maunakea, but also to prevent gorse's spread to the lower slopes during rain events.

I would suggest that the development of a pilot project include consultation with the Big Island and Hawai'i Invasive Species Councils, DLNR, HDOA, Natural Resource Conservation Service and University of Hawai'i specialists, to provide input and guidance to avoid unintended consequences of further spreading the plant, plant parts, or seeds during removal and repurposing of the gorse. I would also ask that the Hawai'i County Game Management Advisory Commission be invited to consult, since that Commission has long expressed concern about the spread of gorse and the fire hazard it represents.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR