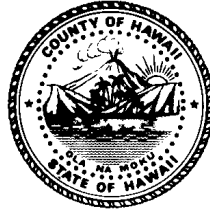


Harry Kim
Mayor



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 11, 2020

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 2713, SD2 Relating to Biosecurity

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB2713, SD2.

Two or more years ago, the Council of Mayors identified invasive species as a top-priority issue that deserves your attention. Our best efforts at the County level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that we work together with you in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems.

Creating a well-funded, rapid response mechanism to deal with invasives seems like an excellent way to attack infestations as they are identified. Prompt action will almost always have the best chance for success.

I hope you will approve SB 2713, SD2.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR