

Resolution

No. 00-24

RECOGNIZING THE THREAT OF INVASIVE ALIEN PLANT SPECIES TO THE ECOSYSTEMS, NATIVE FORESTS AND HIGH QUALITY WATERSHED

WHEREAS, the Hawaiian Islands are among the most environmentally sensitive areas in the world, containing unique and extremely fragile ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, the State's 150 recognized ecosystems are home to more than one-third of the 526 plant species and 88 bird species on the United States' endangered and threatened species list; and

WHEREAS, conservationists call Hawaii the "Endangered Species Capital of the World," as three-fourths of the nation's extinct plant and bird species once lived only on our islands; and

WHEREAS, alien pest species are considered the single greatest threat to the survival of our native Hawaiian plant and bird species; and

WHEREAS, the economic impact of alien pest species in the State of Hawaii exceeds \$400 million annually; and

WHEREAS, invasive alien plants are plant species that are not native to Hawaii, and whose introduction and/or presence will likely cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, invasive alien plants can cause degradation of agricultural lands and lowered agricultural production, and create undesirable and/or hazardous situations that are costly and time-consuming to correct; and

WHEREAS, biological invasion problems are unlike most other environmental or social problems because they are usually irreversible and will affect generations to come without end; and

WHEREAS, reducing economic and environmental damage caused by harmful alien plant species would be in accordance with the spirit of the February 3, 1999 U.S. Presidential Executive Order on Alien Species (EO 13112); and

WHEREAS, Hawaii's endemic plants, animals, and native forests in the State of Hawaii and County of Maui are integral parts of Hawaiian cultural heritage, forming the basis of much of what makes Hawaiian culture unique; and

WHEREAS, the County of Maui can set an example for businesses and residents on Maui, the other counties in Hawaii, and the Hawaii State government, as well as become a leader nationally and internationally at a time when alien species are being recognized as a worldwide problem; and

WHEREAS, threats posed to Maui County's resources by invasive alien plant species have been recognized, and mitigation measures have already been substantially funded by the Maui County Council, the Maui County Department of Water Supply, the State of Hawaii, Federal agencies, multi-agency coalitions, and private businesses on Maui; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

- 1. That it will not condone the purchase, planting, growing, sale, or distribution of invasive alien plant species on County-owned or leased properties, or in conjunction with any County-funded project; and**
- 2. That it urges the Administration to ensure that any plant purchased, planted, grown, sold, distributed, or otherwise used or condoned by the County is correctly identified, and that the species is not known to be invasive elsewhere or likely to be invasive in Hawaii; and**
- 3. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate, State of Hawaii; the Speaker of the House of Representatives, State of Hawaii; the Mayor of Maui County; the Director of the Maui County Department of Water Supply; the Chairperson of the Maui County Board of Water Supply; the Director of Planning; the Director of Parks and Recreation; the Maui County Arborist; and the Maui County Arborist Committee.**

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793

CERTIFICATION OF ADOPTION

It is **HEREBY CERTIFIED** that **RESOLUTION NO. 00-24** was adopted by the Council of the County of Maui, State of Hawaii, on the 3rd day of March, 2000, by the following vote:

MEMBERS	Patrick S. KAWANO Chair	Dain P. KANE Vice-Chair	Michael A. DAVIS	J. Kalani ENGLISH	John Wayne ENRIQUES	G. Riki HOKAMA	Dennis Y. NAKAMURA	Wayne K. NISHIKI	Cheraine TAVARES
ROLL CALL	Aye	Aye	Aye	Excused	Aye	Aye	Excused	Aye	Excused



COUNTY CLERK