



April 18, 2009

**Statement by Rep. Neil Abercrombie on H.R. 669, the Nonnative  
Wildlife Invasion Prevention Act**



**Washington, D.C.** -- H.R. 669 was introduced with the intent of halting the introduction of alien invasive species into this country. Every year, invasive species cost this nation more than \$138 billion. In Hawaii, invasive species have resulted in millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests and coral reefs, and has wreaked havoc on our local economy and quality of life.

H.R. 669 is intended to stop the intentional introduction of nonnative alien species that are found harmful. Of the 2,200 imported non-native species in the U.S., only about 13% are deemed to have some risk associated with its introduction. This bill does not affect any animals that people currently legally own in the U.S. Nor does it affect commonly domesticated animals such as cats, dogs, horses, and pigs.

I believe federal action is needed to help prevent the introduction of invasive species. However, this measure is just starting the legislative process and changes will undoubtedly be made by the Congress. As this bill is considered, the Committee on Natural Resources will work with concerned groups to try and resolve differences.

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