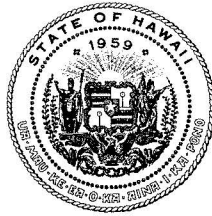
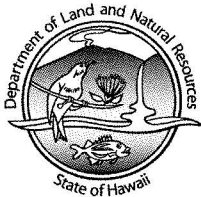


LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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KEN C. KAWAHARA
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**TESTIMONY OF THE CHAIRPERSON
OF THE BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

on House Bill 2501, House Draft 1 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

February 12, 2008

House Bill 2501, House Draft 1 consolidates existing quarantine authorities and stated goals for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) by recognizing the biosecurity program, provides authorities to require cargo manifests of cargo and provides funding. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure, but has concerns as it would adversely impact priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request

Preventing new invasive species from establishing in Hawaii provides the greatest long term protection for Hawaii and the Department supports stronger import quarantine measures. Fortunately, the Hawaii's islands provide a natural barrier and advantage that helps slow the interisland movement of invasive species. The increase in interisland transportation without adequate inspection and quarantine has resulted in the spread of invasive species across the state once they become established on a single island. Some of the most recent and costly examples of this are the introduction of several coqui frogs each year to the islands of Maui, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai and the spread of stinging nettle caterpillar from the Big Island to Maui and Oahu.

In Hawaii, over 432,000 - 20' equivalent containers are imported annually according to 2005 numbers recorded by the Department of Transportation. A similar number of containers are transported interisland each year. Allowing DOA to review detailed descriptions of the contents of the containers and prioritize them for inspection will allow the highest risk goods to be inspected for invasive species as the current DOA capacity allows while allowing the rest to move on to their destinations. Requiring detailed manifests will improve the State's response to future risk posed by new commodities such as the increased importation of building materials that may harbor invasive plants, insects or even larger animals such as snakes. Including inspection and quarantine treatment in the State's transportation network and providing DOA with the resources and authority to improve interisland and import quarantine for Hawaii, protects the State's agricultural sector, tourism economy and environment.

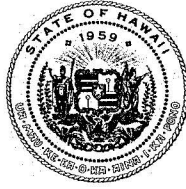
DOA has developed and implemented key initiatives in their Biosecurity Strategy designed to reduce the import and spread of invasive species such as coqui and nettle caterpillar. The recent increase in permanent inspector positions and the establishment of the user fee under Act 9,

Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, has been an important incremental step in the process of supporting a modernized and functional quarantine system to protect Hawaii from invasive species that threaten agriculture, the economy, our environment and way of life.

The development of sustained, scalable funding for Hawaii's quarantine system was one of the priorities recognized by the 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau Report "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species". In a poll carried out in Feb 2007 by Qmark, a division of Star Segal, done on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), nearly 75% of those polled supported a service fee to protect Hawaii from invasive species.

Establishment of adequate interisland quarantine inspections and improvements in inspections of imports will require additional resources and authorities as identified in this measure. The Department supports the intent of this measure, however has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request, and defers to DOA on the specific mechanisms for developing these tools.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

BRENNON T. MORIOKA
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
MICHAEL D. FORMBY
FRANCIS PAUL KEENO
BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 12, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2501, H.D.1

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Transportation supports this bill, to the extent that it does not conflict with the priorities established in the Executive Supplemental Budget.

House Bill No. 2501, H.D.1, would add a new part to Chapter 150A, HRS, to establish a biosecurity program and require cargo carriers to prepare and submit manifests of cargo shipped into the State or between islands, to the Department of Agriculture.

We believe the establishment of a biosecurity program will provide the State with an important tool to control the spread of invasive species. As an operator of airport and harbor facilities in the State, the Department stands ready to work with the Department of Agriculture in its implementation of actions to achieve the objectives of this bill.



Maui County Farm Bureau



*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

TESTIMONY

HB2501 HD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Morita and Committee Members:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

MCFB strongly requests your SUPPORT of HB2501 HD1 providing funding for the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan.

The viability of our farmers and ranchers is at stake. Invasive species control is of great concern to our farmers and ranchers. Crops have been lost, control costs increased and health of our livestock industry threatened by various invasive species. Therefore, this subject matter is one of our primary concerns. We are therefore in agreement that Invasive Species Control is important and the measures proposed critical to protecting Hawaii's environment and agriculture.

As we look to address invasive species, our farmers and ranchers are facing a near crisis situation in the area of transportation. Improvements in Harbor infrastructure will be critical for expansion of Hawaii's agriculture. Recent experiences with the Hawaii Superferry and now the Kahului Harbor 2030 Draft EIS gives strong testament to the delay tactics that will be used by some to slow down the improvement process. This measure is needed to ensure that concern of invasive species does not lead to slow down the much needed harbor improvement plans.

MCFB respectfully requests passage of this measure. The viability of our farmers and ranchers is at stake.

We respectfully request that this **Bill be held and focus be placed on enacting incentives** so landowners will designate their lands as Important Agricultural Lands as soon as possible. Time is of the urgency. We cannot loose any more farmers or ranchers.

P.O. Box 148
Kula, HI 96790

ph: 808 2819718
email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2501 HD 1 Relating to Biosecurity
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Tuesday, February 12, 2008, 8:50AM, Rm. 312

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.B. 2501 HD 1 Relating to Biosecurity.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture is doing an admirable job to protect the State from new pest species. With additional financial and personnel support from the Legislature, the Department's implementation of a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan will enhance this effort with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection services, joint state-federal inspection facilities, and agreements with importers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i.

This bill takes the important step of codifying the Biosecurity Plan in statute, and providing the Department of Agriculture with the necessary authority to fund their important efforts.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
February 12, 2008
8:50 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2501 HD1

Aloha Chair Morita, Vice Chair Carroll, and Members of the Committee,
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 2501 HD1, Relating to Biosecurity.**

Two reports* published in the early 1990s listed the need for a biosecurity program to protect Hawai'i from invasive species.

OTA Finding:

“Hawaii’s geographic isolation makes it the state most in need of a comprehensive policy to address NIS (non-indigenous species, now referred to as invasive species)—virtually a separate “national” policy with its own programs and resources. The greatest challenge is to coordinate this need with Federal priorities, which can differ.”

HB 2501 HD1 would give the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) the ability to carry out a biosecurity program which would go a long way in addressing some of the State's most pressing invasive species issues. HDOA's biosecurity program, along with a joint inspection facility (HB 2516, and other measures) would bolster our ability to prevent or intercept new invasive species that could enter the State.

CGAPS asks for your support of HB 2501 HD1. Mahalo.

CGAPS--Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
Ph: (808) 722-0995

**“The Alien Pest Species Invasion in Hawaii: Background Study and Recommendations for Interagency Planning” (The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii and Natural Resources Defense Council July 1992)*

**“Harmful Non-Indigenous Species in the United States” (U.S. Congress, Office of Technology Assessment 1993)*



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803
808.537.9019 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

February 12th, 2008, 8:50 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2501 HD1

Chair Morita and members of the Committee:

The Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, with 5500 dues paying members statewide, supports HB 2501 HD1, providing funding for the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program.

We believe that the adequate funding for the control and prevention of invasive species has been lacking for too long. As a result, Hawaii's residents, businesses, and agricultural operations are footing the bill. Estimates by one state biologist show that alien pests cost residents and the agriculture industry upwards of \$400 million annually.

Hawai'i is losing the war on alien species. Some alien species, such as miconia, threaten to destroy watersheds and native ecosystems, jeopardizing freshwater supplies and pushing species to extinction. Other alien species, such as the coqui frog and dengue and its carriers, threaten our health, tourist industry, and our quality of life. Of particular concern is the introduction of the brown tree snake—a snake that nearly wiped out the native bird population on Guam.

Invasive pests from the Asia and the US mainland wreck havoc on native ecosystems. The cost—both economic and environmental—of introduced species in Hawai'i is astronomical. Tourism, agriculture, native species, and citizens' way of life are threatened with each new introduction. Sufficient funding to reduce introductions is clearly warranted; this is one area where an ounce of prevention is worth many pounds of cure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HAWAII FARM BUREAU FEDERATION
2343 ROSE STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96819**

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2501, HD 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Morita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Alan Takemoto, Executive Director, of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, which is the largest non-profit general agriculture organization representing approximately 1,600 farm and ranch family members statewide.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation supports HB 2501, HD 1, which establishes statutory provisions and appropriates funds for the DOA's biosecurity program.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawaii's agricultural industry. Invasive species have negatively impacted both Hawaii's environment and economy. The demise of the native wili wili tress, the recent infestation of imported Christmas trees, coqui frog, and others pests and diseases chronically devastate our agricultural crops. DOA's biosecurity program is a comprehensive plan to address our food security and invasive species control in Hawaii.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Hearing: Tuesday, February 12, 2008
8:50 am
Room 312

Support for HB 2501 HD 1 Relating to Biosecurity

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2501 HD 1, which establishes statutory provisions and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program.

We also recommend that, as part of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's post-entry measures within the biosecurity program, permanent adequate funding be established for the Invasive Species Committee's for Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Maui, and Hawai'i. The Invasive Species Committees are doing a good job with limited resources. They are working with private landowners in a cooperative manner to control invasive species already here. Please identify the appropriate vehicle to establish permanent adequate funding for the Invasive Species Committees.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler



Working Today for the Nature of Tomorrow!

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

Hawai'i Affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation

President: *Julie Leialoha* * Vice-President: *Nelson Ho* * Secretary/Treasurer: *Kim Ramos* * Directors: *Fred Kraus, Ph.D.* * *Douglas Lamerson,*
George Robertson * *Claire Shimabukuro* * *Helene Takemoto* * *Mashuri Waite* * Executive Director: *Marjorie Ziegler*

**Hawaii
Crop
Improvement
Association**

Sarah Styan, President
P.O. Box 609
Waimea, Hawaii 96796
Phone: 808- 338-8300 ext 113

Testimony by: Sarah Styan
HB 2501hd1, Biosecurity
House EEP Committee
Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008
Room 312: 8:50 am

Position: Support

Chair Morita and Members of the House EEP Committee:

My name is Sarah Styan. I am a Kauai resident, President of HCIA and research scientist of Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Waimea Research Station. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii for nearly 40 years. The HCIA is comprised of five member companies that farm an estimated 8,000 acres on four islands, valued at \$97.6 million in operating budget (2006/2007 HASS). We are proud members of Hawaii's diversified agriculture and life sciences industries.

As testified in previous years, HCIA believes that financing the prevention of importation of invasive species is more prudent than later financing of eradication or containment programs. Examples of such latter efforts include the battle against the coqui frogs, miconia, gorse weed, fireweed and others.

Policy and funding support for the Department of Agriculture's proposed Biosecurity program is critical, not only to the agricultural industry, but to Hawaii's environment. The proposed program seeks to establish pre-entry inspection programs and quarantine as needed of exporters from other states and countries, and safe handling and storage of food and agricultural cargo. This is a welcomed and necessary program to protect Hawaii's farmers and environment. Hawaii's exporters have been subject to such stringent pre-entry inspection programs for many years.

Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

Janice Lehner

From: William George [wgeorge@mountainmeadowranch.com]
Sent: Monday, February 11, 2008 10:34 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Subject: Support for HB 3001

Dear Madam Chair and Committee Members,

The referenced bill is a major step in addressing the reality that noise pollution should be a part of environmental policy. States, counties and municipalities across the country are addressing the issue in the form of statute and ordinance.

By and large, Hawaii is an environmentally conscious state, but noise has not been adequately addressed.

The effects of noise pollution are well known and studies have confirmed physiological and psychological harm to humans and animals.

Physiological effects include:

Loss of hearing-Dysfunction-Cardiovascular Problems-Increased Blood Pressure-Reduced Depth of Sleep-Headaches.

Psychological effects include:

Annoyance-Stress-Disturbance to Communications-Loss of Performance-Despondency- Aggression and Rage

Here in rural and agricultural areas on the Big Island, we are plagued with noise from private property that carries over a wide area. Much of this comes from recreational off road vehicles such as racing/ sport ATVs and dirt motorcycles. These machines are run on full blown race tracks constructed on private property.

Hawaii land use laws and county zoning codes do not allow such activity without a special permit. Complaints by neighbors must be made in relation to land use. The County Planning Department is charged with enforcement, but is not adequately staffed to deal with the volume of complaints. Thus the process of regaining the peace and tranquility of these areas is at best slow and at worst non-existent.

Hawaii desperately needs a comprehensive policy to confront noise pollution. This should be integrated with environmental protection.

Clean air and water and protection of our ecosystems are important, but attention must be given to noise pollution as well.

House Bill 3001 is a first step in that direction. Please consider the foregoing as enthusiastic support for the bill.

Respectfully,

William George
46-3895 Kapuna Road
Honokaa, HI 96727
808-775-9376