TESTIMONY OF KU`UHAKU PARK GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER HORIZON LINES

IN REGARDS TO HB2501 HD1 - RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

Chair Morita, and Members of the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection:

I am Ku`uhaku Park, testifying in regards to HB2501 HD1, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO BIOSECURITY" on behalf of Horizon Lines, LLC., in support of this bill.

We would also like to request that this legislature implore the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources work collaboratively on creating, implementing and managing this program. There are other bills out there this session addressing invasive species inspection processes and fees to fund such programs. We feel that a single program would be much more efficient, and economical than trying to implement and fund three different programs that would essentially do the same thing.

Passing this bill, creating statute and appropriating funds for this biosecurity program, would render these other bills redundant and bureaucratic.

Due to the aforementioned reasons, Horizon Lines requests that this bill be passed by this committee. Thank you for consideration of our testimony.



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 12, 2008 8:50 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2501, H.D. 1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Morita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2501, H.D. 1. The purpose of this bill is to establish and fund the department of agriculture's biosecurity program. The department supports this bill provided it does not adversely impact priorities as indicated in our executive biennium budget.

The department of agriculture has formulated and has begun to implement a new biosecurity program for the state consisting of preclearance programs, port-of-entry inspections, post-entry control and eradication programs, and initiatives to spur the growth of agriculture in Hawaii to reduce the state's dependency on imported agricultural products.

Several major projects key to the implementation of the biosecurity program are underway at this time. Specifically, we have initiated the planning and installation of joint-use inspection facilities at the airports and harbors to mitigate environmental concerns for the improvements to the transportation infrastructure at ports statewide; and are currently developing coordinated federal-state programs targeting risk assessments, diagnostics, detection, control and suppression, and emergency management programs.

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CIP proposals have been submitted and are under review in the department.

Consultants are involved in scoping the project and identifying the needs of state and federal agencies, the airlines, freight carriers and growers in Hawaii.

A separate but related initiative is under way to identify the inspection infrastructure needed at Honolulu Harbor of the inspection of sea containers arriving in Hawaii containing high pest risk cargo.

In addition to the above, the department has committed to expand efforts to control invasive species in Hawaii through biological control, the introduction of beneficial insects and pathogens for the control of pest species. The department has an excellent track record in this area.