

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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MICHAEL D. FORMBY
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 20, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 2516

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation appreciates the intent of this bill, which is to appropriate funds for the design and construction of joint federal-state biosecurity inspection facilities. However, we have concerns about the adverse budgetary impact that this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

This bill will appropriate \$5,000,000 for the design and construction of the facility at the Honolulu International Airport and \$1,500,000 for the design and construction of the facility at the Honolulu Harbor. The general obligation bonds authorized by this bill are not considered in the State's bond issuance plan.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



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 FINANCE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2008
3:30 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2516
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2516. The purpose of this bill is to authorize the issue of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the joint biosecurity inspection facilities at Honolulu International Airport and Honolulu Harbor. The department supports the intent of this bill; however, we have concerns about the adverse budgetary impact that this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request.

Invasive species is threatening our economy, agriculture industry and environment. Preventing entry of invasive species is a primary mission of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The department is filling in the gaps in invasive species prevention systems by implementing our Biosecurity Program.

The department has already initiated the planning and implementation 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 is currently developing coordinated federal-state programs targeting risk assessments, diagnostics, detection, control and suppression, and emergency management programs designed to further increase the effectiveness of our invasive species programs.

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.

Transportation infrastructure is critical to an island state but there must be provisions for safeguards to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the state or between islands.

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

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

on House Bill 2516 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE**

February 20, 2008

House Bill 2516 authorizes the issue of general obligation bonds and appropriates \$5,000,000 for the joint biosecurity inspection facilities at Honolulu international airport and \$1,500,000 for Honolulu harbor. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) recognizes the intent of this measure, the Department nonetheless has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request. In addition, the Department notes that the general obligation bonds authorized by this bill are not considered in the State's bond issuance plan.

Preventing new invasive species from establishing in Hawaii provides the greatest long term protection for Hawaii and the Department supports strong import quarantine measures. The lack of including invasive species quarantine in all airport and harbor facilities planning both hampers inspection efforts by the Department of Agriculture but increases the cost and time that shippers and businesses must expend to take their agricultural cargo to remote locations. Central, well planned facilities allow for efficient cargo movement and better quarantine inspections that protect Hawaii's economy and environment from invasive species.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee Finance

Hearing: Wednesday, February 20, 2008
3:30 PM
Room 308

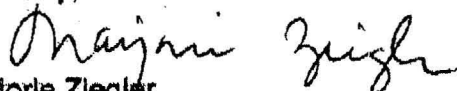
Support for HB 2516 Relating to Biosecurity

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2516, which authorizes issue of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the joint federal-state inspection facilities at the Honolulu International Airport and Honolulu Harbor.

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 that are 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@conservehl.org • web: www.conservehl.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 Lelaicha * Vice-President: Nelson Ho * Secretary/Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Directors: Fred Kraus, Ph.D. * Douglas Lamerson, George Robertson * Claire Shimabukuro * Helene Takemoto * Meshuri Walte * 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 2516, Biosecurity
House FIN Committee
Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2008
Room 308: 3:30 pm – Agenda #3

Position: Support

Chair Oshiro and Members of the House FIN 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.

This measure provides funding for the planning of interim and permanent federal/state inspection facilities for imported cargo. This is an important step towards stopping the flow of invasive species at the port of entry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Legislative Testimony
HB 2516, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY
House Committee on Finance

February 20, 2008
Room: 308

3:30 p.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs **SUPPORTS** HB 2516, which appropriates funds for the establishment of joint biosecurity inspection facilities at Honolulu International Airport and Honolulu Harbor.

The legislature found in 2003 that the silent invasion of Hawai'i by insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests is the single greatest threat to Hawai'i's economy and natural environment and to the health and lifestyle of Hawai'i's people. Invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests, and the spread of disease.

This bill would elaborate upon these findings by providing for joint federal and state inspection facilities, which would increase the efficiency and efficacy of these inspections. This is a natural step towards the furtherance of protecting our valuable natural resources from the silent invasion.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committees to PASS HB 2516. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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

FEBRUARY 20, 2008

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Agenda #3

TESTIMONY ON HB 2516
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Oshiro 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 2516, which authorizes the issuance of general obligation bonds and appropriates funds for the joint biosecurity inspection facilities at Honolulu International Airport and Honolulu Harbor.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawaii's agricultural industry. Invasive species and the havoc to Hawaii's environment and economy are well noted in the demise of the native wili wili tress, the recent infestation of imported Christmas trees, coqui frog, and others pests and diseases that chronically devastates our agricultural crops.

Appropriations to fund the DOA's planning and designing of a joint federal and state biosecurity inspection facilities is a big step towards curtailing invasive species that enter the state through imported cargo.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



Maui County Farm Bureau

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

TESTIMONY

HB 2516 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Chair Oshiro 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 HB 2516 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.

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 timely passage of this measure. The viability of our farmers and ranchers is at stake.

P.O. Box 148
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email:mauicountyfb@hotmail.com

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2516 Relating to Biosecurity
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 3:30PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for rare and endangered 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 and also work closely with government agencies and private landowners on cooperative land management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i strongly supports H.B. 2516 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.

While the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution and the preemption provisions of the U.S. Plant Protection Act, limit states' ability to regulate items in trade, there are opportunities for our State agricultural inspectors to collaborate with their federal counterparts to help stem the tide of invasive species. The funding proposed in this legislation will support the next logical step in the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity plan by facilitating the co-location of State and federal agricultural inspection and treatment capacity in joint facilities at our main ports of entry.

Not only will such facilities serve to protect against new pest introductions, they will also facilitate the inspection and certification of locally produced agricultural products for export to the mainland U.S. and foreign countries. So, this funding will both protect Hawaii and its economy from the threat of invasive species, as well as promote Hawaii's diversified agricultural economy and market opportunities.

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The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 20, 2008
3:30 a.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2516

Aloha Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 2516**, *Relating to Biosecurity*.

HB 2516 would help the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to implement an effective biosecurity program by providing funds for the planning and building of a new joint Federal-State inspection and quarantine facility at the Honolulu International Airport.

As we know, inspection of incoming cargo from outside the U.S. is inspected primarily by the federal Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection and USDA APHIS, while cargo coming from U.S. ports is inspected by HDOA. These agencies are mandated to look for invasive pest species on their respective lists, and these lists are quite different. This becomes problematic when one agency finds a pest that is of concern to the other, yet isn't on their own list. Adding all the species that would be of concern to Hawai'i to the Federal lists is not possible due to the criteria for listing each of these species. However, CGAPS believes that interagency communication and cooperation should be a top priority in the battle against invasive species, and that a joint inspection facility would allow for better coordination and potential cost-savings with regards to infrastructure needs.

CGAPS asks for your support of HB 2516. Mahalo.

CGAPS--Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
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