

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE
AND
TRANSPORTATION
FEBRUARY 8, 2008
9:15 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2843
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

LATE
Testimony

Chairpersons Tsuji and Souki and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2843. The purpose of this bill is to impose an invasive species fee for all incoming non-containerized freight into the State and to require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to assess fines for violations of section 150A-5.3, HRS, for inspection, quarantine, and eradication services fees, pursuant to rules. We appreciate the interest of the legislature to address all aspects of the movement of invasive species into the state. At this time, we would like to encourage your support for passage of HB 3033, an administration bill, which will provide HDOA with the ability to identify types of incoming cargo to the State, assess the level of risk posed by the cargo, and deploy our resources accordingly.



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

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LATE
Testimony

EMAIL: AGRtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

TO: Committee on Agriculture
Representative Cliff Tsuji, Chair and Representative Tom Brower, Vice Chair

Committee Transportation
Representative Joseph Souki, Chair and Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

HEARING: Friday, February 8, 2008; 9:15 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: HB2843, Relating to Invasive Species

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Tsuji, Chair Souki and members of the Committees on Agriculture and Transportation.. My name is George Massengale, I a member of the Hawaii Audubon Society and during session I serve as their Legislative Analyst. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of HB2977, which establish a fee on freight that is transported into the State that is not in a commercial marine container.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and is the oldest conservation organization in Hawaii. The Society has over 1,500 dedicated members statewide working together to further the Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native wildlife and habitats. This includes protecting our ecosystems from invasive species. The sad fact is that Hawai'i has the highest number of listed threatened and endangered species in the nation.

This measure, if passed, would provide an ongoing funding stream which could be used to expand eradicating efforts on such invasive species such as the coqui frog or varroa mite. The Hawaii Audubon Society would urge the committees to pass HB2843 for further hearing before the Finance Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity testify here today.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst



Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs
P. O. Box 1135
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96807

LATE
Testimony

TESTIMONY OF LEIMOMI KHAN, PRESIDENT
IN SUPPORT OF

**HB 2843 - RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE; CONSUMER PROTECTION &
COMMERCE; AND TRANSPORTATION**

Hearing date and time: February 8, 2008

February 7, 2008

Aloha Chairpersons Tsuji, Herkes and Souki; Vice-Chairs Brower, McKelvey and Nishimoto; and Members of the House Committees on Agriculture; Consumer Protection & Commerce; and Transportation.

The Association is a growing national confederation of fifty-three Hawaiian Civic Clubs, located throughout the State of Hawai`i and in the States of Alaska, California, Colorado, Illinois, Nevada, Utah, Virginia and Washington State. It initiates and works to support actions that enhance the civic, economic, educational, health and social welfare of our communities, and in particular, the culture and welfare of the Native Hawaiian community.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2843 , which would impose an invasive species fee for all incoming non-containerized freight into the State. It would also require the Department of Agriculture to assess fines for certain violations of state law.

The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs has long advocated the need for measures which would enforce stricter monitoring and inspection of incoming plants and increase the penalties levied against those who violate quarantine laws and laws regulating the introduction of alien plants, insect and animal species. More recently, on October 29, 2005, the Association passed Resolution No. 2005-23, Urging the State Legislature to Enact Legislation to Protect Hawai`i's Flora and Fauna. In our Resolution, we cite Article 11, Section 1 of Hawai`i State Constitution, which states, "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawai`i's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the state. All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people".

We strongly believe that taking the enforcement steps and imposing the sanctions called for in this bill is consistent with the public purpose enshrined in our constitution and urge your support of this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.