

SB 2648

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
FEBRUARY 5, 2008
2:00 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2648
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor and Members of the Committees:

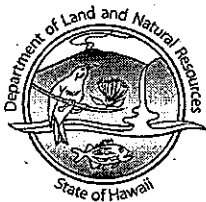
Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2648.

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds for the planning of inspection facilities as part of the department's biosecurity program. The department supports the intent of this bill, but are concerned about how this will impact priorities as indicated in our executive biennium budget.

The department has already 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 designed to further increase the effectiveness of our invasive species programs.

CIP proposals have been submitted and are under review in the department. Consultants are scoping the project and identifying the needs of state and federal agencies, the airlines, freight carriers and growers in Hawaii. The final report which contains the preliminary design criteria will be completed in June 2008.

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

LATE TESTIMONY

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
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
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 Senate Bill 2648 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

February 5, 2008

Senate Bill 2648 appropriates funds for the planning of inspection facilities by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) as part of its biosecurity program. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure, however has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill will have on 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. The lack of including invasive species quarantine in all airport and harbor facilities both hampers inspection efforts by DOA and 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.

Last year, Act 9 Session Laws of Hawaii, 2007, created a much needed special fund for the Department of Agriculture to establish service charges for inspection and quarantine treatment of commercial shipments.

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

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

**HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
&
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2648
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chair Tokuda and Menor 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 SB 2648, which appropriates funds for the planning of inspection facilities by the DOA as part of its biosecurity plan.

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.



Hawaii Agriculture Research Center

99-193 Aiea Heights Drive, Suite 300

Aiea, Hawaii 96701

Ph: 808-487-5561/Fax: 808-486-5020

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

SENATE BILL 2648

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

February 5, 2008

Chairs Tokuda and Menor and Members of the Committees:

My name is Stephanie Whalen. I am President and Research Director of the Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC). I am testifying today on behalf of the center, our research and support staff, and our members and clients.

HARC strongly supports of Senate Bill 2648 Relating to Invasive Species.

Partnering with the federal government in a permanent joint inspection facility will certainly help the Department of Agriculture implement its biosecurity program in more efficiently and economically.

Your continuing support for infrastructure of the biosecurity program to ensure it is permanent and sufficiently funded to protect our state from invasive species is strongly urged.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE TESTIMONY

**Hawaii
Crop
Improvement
Association**

Paul Koehler, Past-President, Board Member
2111 Piilani Highway
Kihei Hawaii 96853
Phone: 808-879-4074 Fax: 808-879-0499

Testimony by: Paul Koehler
SB 2648, Relating to Invasive Species
Senate AHW Committee
Tuesday, Feb. 5, 2008
Room 414: 2:00 pm

Position: Strong Support

Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Senate AHW Committee:

My name is Paul Koehler. I am a Maui resident, Past-President and sitting Board Member of HCIA. The HCIA represents seed production and research facilities operating in Hawaii. 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.



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
923 Nu'uauu Avenue
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019

nature.org/hawaii

LATE

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2648 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committees on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs,
and Energy & Environment
Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 2:00PM, Room 414

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 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 S.B. 2648 Relating to Invasive Species.

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.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. David C. Cole Samuel A. Cooke
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Guy Fujimura J. Stephen Goodfellow Thomas Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes Ron Higgins Peter Ho
Stanley Hong J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr. Faye Watanabe Kurren Duncan MacNaughton
Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles James Romig Eric Yeaman

with
H.P.S. 02/05/08



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

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709

Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com

www.hawaii-audubon.com

EMAIL: testimony@capitol.hawaii.gov

**TO: Committee on Agriculture and Hawaii Affairs
Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair and Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair**

**Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Ron Menor, Chair and Senator Gary Hooser, Vice Chair**

Thursday, February 5, 2008; 2:00 P.M., Conference Rm. 414

Re: Testimony in Support / with Reservations of SB2648, Relating to Invasive Species

Chairs Tokuda and Menor, and members of the committees. My name is George Massengale, I a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and during session I serve as their Legislative Analyst. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of SB2648, which would provide funds for planning of the interim joint inspection facility with the federal government.

The Hawaii Audubon Society was founded in 1939, and has over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawaii's native wildlife and habitats. This includes protecting our ecosystems from invasive species. Once established, invasive plants crowd out endemic (native) plants. The sad fact is that Hawai'i has the highest number of listed threatened and endangered species in the nation. There are 394 threatened and endangered species in the State of Hawai'i, of which 294 are plants. Invasive plants have led to the extinction of 55 species of plants in the State with another 42 possibly extinct.

Our endemic birds have fared no better. Invasive species have destroyed their habitat and food sources, leading to their extinction or placement on the endangered species list.

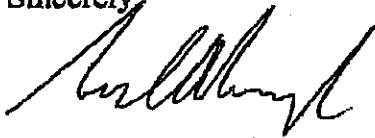
The Hawaiian Islands are in the midst of an invasive species crisis. This crisis is occurring in spite of the fact that Hawaii has one of the world's longest-standing and most comprehensive quarantine systems that traces its beginnings in 1888, when King David Kalakaua declared a quarantine on imported coffee to prevent the introduction of coffee rust and other diseases.

Many of the invasive species cited in this bills text, arrived and established themselves in the last two decades. Two of most recent arrivals are the erythrina gall wasp (2004), it has decimated the "tall wiliwili" plant, which is critical to soil and water conservation. The second, the varroa mite (2007), it has infected 75% of the bee hives on Oahu. If not eradicated, will eventually spread and wipe out Hawaii's small but thriving Natural Honey Industry.

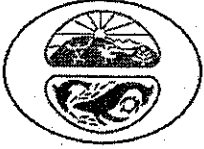
On its face SB2648 appears to be a good measure that should be supported by these committee. Hopefully, a joint biosecurity inspection facility, will have greater effectiveness in intercepting invasive species than the current system in place. We would urge passage of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity testify here today.

Sincerely



George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst



LATE TESTIMONY

Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
and Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Hearing: Tuesday, February 5, 2008
2 pm
Room 415

Support for SB 2648 Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2648, which appropriates funds for the planning of an interim and permanent joint federal-state inspection facilities at the Honolulu International Airport.

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@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



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Committee on Energy and Environment
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 414
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2648

Aloha Chairs Tokuda and Menor, Vice Chairs English and Hooser, and Members of the Committees,
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2648, *Relating to Invasive Species.***

SB 2648 would help the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to implement an effective biosecurity program by funding plans for 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 Homeland Security-Customs and Border Protection, 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, which becomes problematic when one agency finds a pest that is of concern to the other, yet isn't on their own list. CGAPS believes that interagency communication and cooperation should be a top priority in the battle against invasive species, and a joint inspection facility would allow for better coordination and potential cost-savings with regards to infrastructure needs.

CGAPS asks for your support of SB 2648. Mahalo.

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