

SB 2648

**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

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**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.



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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 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 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.

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