

**SB 2850**

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. 2850  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairpersons Tokuda and Menor and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2850.

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.

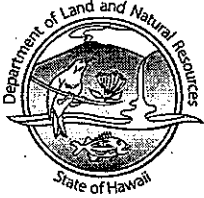
CIP proposals have been submitted and are under review in the department. Consultants are involved in scoping the project and identifying the needs of state and federal agencies, the airlines, freight carriers and growers in Hawaii.

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 excellent track record in this area, but facilities for the introduction and host range testing of biocontrol agents are limited and need to be upgraded and/or replaced. To this end, the department has been exploring various options for capital improvement projects, including, the co-location of a new quarantine insectary in Waimanalo at the site of a new fruit fly rearing facility planned by USDA, APHIS, PPQ for Hawaii. While these discussions are in the planning stage, federal and state engineers and planners are participating in the review and design project to identify cost sharing opportunities for the respective facilities.

The department welcomes legislative support of these initiatives.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



## 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

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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**on Senate Bill 2850 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

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

**February 5, 2008**

Senate Bill 2850 consolidates existing quarantine authorities and stated goals for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) by recognizing the biosecurity program, provides authorities to require cargo manifests of cargo and provides funding. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of this measure, but has concerns as it would adversely impact priorities in 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. Fortunately, the Hawaii's islands provide a natural barrier and advantage that helps slow the interisland movement of invasive species. The increase in interisland transportation without adequate inspection and quarantine has resulted in the spread of invasive species across the state once they become established on a single island. Some of the most recent and costly examples of this are the introduction of several coqui frogs each year to the islands of Maui, Molokai, Oahu and Kauai and the spread of stinging nettle caterpillar from the Big Island to Maui and Oahu.

In Hawaii, over 432,000 - 20' equivalent containers are imported annually according to 2005 numbers recorded by the Department of Transportation. A similar number of containers are transported interisland each year. Allowing DOA to review detailed descriptions of the contents of the containers and prioritize them for inspection will allow the highest risk goods to be inspected for invasive species as the current DOA capacity allows while allowing the rest to move on to their destinations. Requiring detailed manifests will improve the State's response to future risk posed by new commodities such as the increased importation of building materials that may harbor invasive plants, insects or even larger animals such as snakes. Including inspection and quarantine treatment in the State's transportation network and providing DOA with the resources and authority to improve interisland and import quarantine for Hawaii, protects the State's agricultural sector, tourism economy and environment.

DOA has developed and implemented key initiatives in their Biosecurity Strategy designed to reduce the import and spread of invasive species such as coqui and nettle caterpillar. The recent increase in permanent inspector positions and the establishment of the user fee under Act 9, Session Laws of Hawaii 2007, has been an important incremental step in the process of supporting a modernized and functional quarantine system to protect Hawaii from invasive species that threaten agriculture, the economy, our environment and way of life.

The development of sustained, scalable funding for Hawaii's quarantine system was one of the priorities recognized by the 2002 Legislative Reference Bureau Report "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species". In a poll carried out in Feb 2007 by Qmark, a division of Star Segal, done on behalf of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), nearly 75% of those polled supported a service fee to protect Hawaii from invasive species.

Establishment of adequate interisland quarantine inspections and improvements in inspections of imports will require additional resources and authorities as identified in this measure. The Department supports the intent of this measure, however has concerns with the budgetary implications this bill will have on the Executive Supplemental Budget request, and defers to DOA on the specific mechanisms for developing these tools.

LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

BRENNON T. MORIOKA  
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
MICHAEL D. FORMBY  
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BRIAN H. SEKIGUCHI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 5, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2850

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Transportation supports this bill.

S.B. No. 2850 would, in part, add new language to Chapter 150A, HRS, to establish a biosecurity program and require cargo carriers to prepare and submit manifests of cargo shipped into the State or between islands to the Department of Agriculture.

We believe the establishment of a biosecurity program will provide the State with an important tool to control the spread of invasive species. As an operator of airport and harbor facilities in the State, the Department stands ready to work with the Department of Agriculture in its implementation of actions to achieve the objectives of this bill.

**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 2850  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.**

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 2850, which establishes statutory provisions on and appropriates funds for the DOA's biosecurity program.

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 biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will hopefully allow DOA the ability to hire additional staff, resources to set the system of inspections, and the facilities necessary to inspect imported cargo into the state.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



## **Hawaii Agriculture Research Center**

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Aiea, Hawaii 96701  
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### **TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**SENATE BILL 2850**

**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 2850 Relating to Biosecurity**

It will facilitate inspections to have descriptions on the manifests of cargo shipped into the State and between the islands and availability of these manifests to the department prior to shipping.. This will improve the efficiency of inspections and reduce the chances of noxious materials entering the state and moving between islands.

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

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Testimony by: Paul Koehler  
SB 2850, Relating to Biosecurity  
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.

Policy and funding support for the Department of Agriculture's proposed Biosecurity program is critical, not only to the agricultural industry, but to Hawaii's environment. The proposed program seeks to establish pre-entry inspection programs and quarantine as needed of exporters from other states and countries, and safe handling and storage of food and agricultural cargo. This is a welcomed and necessary program to protect Hawaii's farmers and environment. Hawaii's exporters have been subject to such stringent pre-entry inspection programs for many years.

Please support this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



**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 2850 Relating to Biosecurity

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2850, which establishes statutory provisions and appropriates funds for the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program.

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 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!***

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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*



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 2850

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 2850, *Relating to Biosecurity.***

SB 2850 would help the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to implement an effective biosecurity program by requiring cargo carriers to provide detailed manifests of cargo shipped in the State, or between islands. This advanced notice would allow HDOA to better identify high-risk cargo that should be inspected for invasive species. After seeing this computerized notification system at work in the Port of Auckland, New Zealand in 2003, several CGAPS members and HDOA staff were convinced that Hawai'i needed to implement a similar system.

CGAPS asks for your support of SB 2850. Mahalo.

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