

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2850 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Biosecurity
House Committee on Finance
Monday, March 31, 2008, 2:00PM, Rm. 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 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. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports S.B. 2850 SD 2 HD 1 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.

This bill takes the important step of codifying the Biosecurity Plan in statute, and providing the Department of Agriculture with the necessary authority to fund their important efforts.

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