

**LINDA LINGLE**  
Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE  
AND  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2008  
9:30 A.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2850, S.D. 2  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Morita and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2850, S.D. 2. The purpose of this bill is to 1) establish and appropriate funds for the department of agriculture's biosecurity program; and 2) appropriate funds for planning interim and permanent joint inspection facilities. The department supports this bill; however, we have concerns about the possible adverse budgetary impact that this bill may have on the Executive Supplemental budget request.

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 at the same time, 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. To this end, CIP

proposals have been submitted and are under review in the department. In addition, consultants are involved in scoping the project and identifying the needs of state and federal agencies involved, air transportation companies including freight carriers, as well as growers, producers and distributors in Hawaii.

A separate but related initiative is under way to identify the inspection infrastructure that will be needed at Honolulu Harbor to ensure the inspection of sea containers arriving in Hawaii containing high pest risk cargo. This will also include the ability to provide inspectional facilities that can be employed for the proper and safe handling of cargo under climate controlled conditions that will better ensure the food safety of agricultural commodities. At the same time the department had concluded a pilot project that coordinated the inspection of imported produce at selected company sites that maintained a stringent food safety and handling program. The findings from this pilot project may result in the future implementation of food safety programs integrated with the department's regulatory inspection requirements.

This measure will further enhance the full-implementation of the department's biosecurity program by 1) improving air and sea cargo inspection capabilities and methodologies through the enhancement of notice of arrivals via cargo manifests to the department, which includes content and submission requirements, consignor's name, and any applicable or required movement certification; 2) fostering and promoting the increased production of Hawaii-grown products, thus reducing the dependency on imported agricultural commodities; and 3) further providing public awareness and education on the negative impacts to Hawaii from pests entering the state.

In addition to the above, the department has committed to expand efforts to control invasive species in Hawaii through biological control means with the introduction of beneficial insects and pathogens for the control of established pest species. This process requires extensive research and testing of selected biocontrol agents under strict quarantine measures to ensure that the target host would be the only commodity impacted prior to any releases that are approved by state and federal permits.

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**STATE OF HAWAII**  
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 13, 2008

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 2850, S.D.2

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

The Department of Transportation supports this bill.

S.B. No. 2850, S.D.2 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.