

SB 2955

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
FEBRUARY 5, 2008
2:45 P.M.

SENATE BILL NO. 2955
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2955 which is an Administration bill. The purpose of this bill is to provide the department with the authority to require advance notification of transported commodities into the State or from one island to another. It also expands inspection and quarantine authority to non-agricultural commodities. The department strongly supports this measure.

Invasive species is threatening our economy, agriculture industry and environment. Preventing entry of invasive species is a primary mission of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture. The department is filling in the gaps in invasive species prevention systems by implementing our Biosecurity Program. Key to the implementation is the notification of the movement of goods and expansion of our authority. The department needs to know what is coming into the State in order to make good decisions in determining what requires inspection and to be able to take action on pests regardless of whether they appear on agricultural commodities or on other types of cargo.

Last year, the Legislature provided funds through the Department of Transportation to develop the manifest system. This system will provide a more comprehensive understanding of port activity throughout the State. It will improve workflow management and allow for more efficient scheduling of resources through advance notification of a shipment arriving and

determination of the risk of that cargo ahead of time. With 500,000 containers moving into the State each year and another 500,000 containers moving from one island to another, every container cannot be inspected. However, due to the increased concern about health, environment, and economic impacts of invasive species, the department must be able to inspect the high-risk shipments and treat or destroy the pest before the pest becomes established in farms, homes, and forests.

Transportation infrastructure is critical to an island state but there must be provisions for safeguards to prevent the introduction of invasive species into the state or between islands. The passage of this measure is an importation mitigation step and key to the success of the Biosecurity Program.

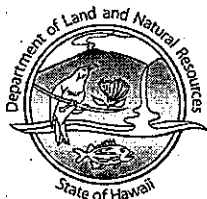
This past year, imported rocks from China carried spiders, and dried reeds from Africa for home construction carried weed seeds and insect pests. This experience emphasized the need for the expansion of HDOA's authority from agricultural commodities to all commodities. As the threats from Brown Tree Snake and red imported fire ant increases, we must be able to respond effectively and efficiently. Household goods from Guam are high risk for the brown tree snake. Frozen chicken and soil-moving equipment are high risk for red imported fire ant. These articles are not covered under our current authority, and therefore, that authority must be expanded to provide adequate protection.

At this time, we would like to correct a typographical error recently found on the Justification Sheet. On page 2, at paragraph 2, sentence 3 should read "Act 64's **wording** authorizes the department . . ." instead of "Act 64's working authorizes the department . . ."

Thank you for your continued support of our Biosecurity Program and allowing us the opportunity to testify on this very important measure.

LATE TESTIMONY

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

on Senate Bill 2955 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

February 5, 2008

Senate Bill 2955 grants the Department of Agriculture (DOA) authority to require advance written notification of arrival of articles transported to the State or from one island within the State to another as freight, air freight, baggage, or otherwise, for the purpose of debarkation. This measure broadens the range of articles subject to advance notification and possible inspection to include non-agricultural articles capable of harboring pests. It corrects an error that occurred in Act 64, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2005, regarding import of restricted articles so as to be consistent with other parts of the statute. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and defers to the DOA as to the specific language required to provide interisland inspection authority and improve import quarantine efforts.

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.

DOA has developed and implemented key initiatives of their expanded Biosecurity Strategy to reduce the import and spread of invasive species such as coqui and nettle caterpillar. The increase in permanent inspector positions and the establishment of the user fee under Act 9, SLH 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.

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 increased importation of building materials that may harbor invasive plants, insects or even larger animals such as snakes. Providing DOA with the authority to improve interisland and import quarantine for Hawaii, protects the State's agriculture, tourism economy and environment.

**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 2955
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS.

Chair Tokuda 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 2955, which grants the DOA authority to require advance written notification of arrival of articles transported to the State or from one island within the state to another as freight for the purpose of debarkation.

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.

Giving the DOA more authority to inspect all cargo and baggage improves the State's ability to inspect all potential avenues and products that may host invasive species.

Thank you for allowing us to testify on this measure.



LATE TESTIMONY



Maui County Farm Bureau

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation
Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

TESTIMONY

SB 2955

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

HEARING BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

My name is Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau, a non-profit general agriculture organization and an affiliate of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation.

MCFB **strongly requests your SUPPORT** of SB 2955 which broadens the scope of authority provided to HDOA for inspection of imports.

Change in consumer demand and globalization have resulted in products never imported in the past now to become commonplace. Unfortunately, invasive species are hitching a ride on these goods. Watchful harbor personnel or others have voluntarily noted the presence of these new organisms resulting in their capture. This process should not be dependent on chancea systematic inspection of high risk cargo is critical. Without such a process, Hawaii will always be trying to contain invasives after they escape into our environment – often to the detriment of agriculture.

MCFB respectfully requests passage of this measure. Thank you.



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

SENATE BILL 2955

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS

February 5, 2008

Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

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 supports Senate Bill 2955, Relating to Agricultural Inspections which corrects an error from 2005 and improves the department's ability to target cargo which has a higher probability of harboring pests.

With the increasing number of invasive species slipping into the state unnoticed legislation that helps to focus inspections on high risk cargo to and within the state must be a high priority for the sustantation of not only agriculture but our environment.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this important measure.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
923 Nu'uuanu 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. 2955 Relating to Agricultural Inspections
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Tuesday, February 5, 2008, 2:45PM, Room 224

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 supports S.B. 2955 Relating to Agricultural Inspections.

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.

A critical component of this Biosecurity Plan is the Department's ability to know in advance what it being shipped into and around the state and be able to direct its resources efficiently and effectively to prevent pest introduction and movement. This bill supports that ability by giving the Department the authority to require shippers to provide advance manifests for articles being shipped into the state and between islands.

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LATE TESTIMONY

COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2955

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committees,
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) supports **SB 2955**, *Relating to Agricultural Inspections*.

SB 2955 would help the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to implement an effective biosecurity program by broadening the range of types of articles subject to advanced notification and inspection. One invasive pest, the Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), is a good example of the need for the measures outlined in SB 2955.

RIFA are aggressive stinging ants that are considered one of the top worst invasive species by the Global Invasive Species Programme, and they are not yet known to occur in Hawai'i. RIFA were first inadvertently introduced around 1930 to Alabama from South America in soil used for shipping ballast. Despite federal quarantine measures, these insects spread across the entire southern U.S. and some Caribbean islands (e.g. Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands). They have also spread to the Bahamas, Singapore, Australia, Taiwan, Hong Kong and southern China. RIFA have been known to infest plants and planting materials, soil, agricultural and earth-moving equipment and vehicles, electrical equipment, and more.

HDOA should have the authority and ability to identify any and all high-risk commodities (or their containers) for these and the multitude of other invasive species that do not yet occur in Hawai'i. CGAPS asks for your support of SB 2955. Mahalo.

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