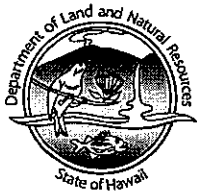


TESTIMONY
SCR 72/ SR 43

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
and
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**Monday, March 23, 2009
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 72/SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE
AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DOA)
TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII.**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 72/Senate Resolution 43 proposes to request the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the United States Department of Homeland Security (USDHS) to collaborate and share invasive species related information with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA). The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these resolutions.

The Department applauds DOA for their continuing efforts to work with USDA and USDHS on invasive species information sharing issues. The Department acknowledges the threats that invasive species cause especially to the State of Hawaii, and encourages federal partners to recognize the need to work with the State to prevent the entrance of invasive species. As such, the Department supports the collaborative information sharing and construction of joint state and federal inspection facilities, contingent upon available funding, as requested by these resolutions.

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
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
AND
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2009
2:45 PM
ROOM 229**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 72/SENATE RESOLUTION 43
REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED
STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE
INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE
SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Chairpersons Hee and Espero and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 72/Senate Resolution 43. The purpose of these resolutions is to request USDA and USDHS to collaborate and share information with the department to prevent invasive species from entering the State of Hawaii. We strongly support these resolutions.

The department's Plant Quarantine Branch, is legally mandated to inspect disembarking passengers, baggage, and cargo to reduce the introduction of invasive species that are brought into the State as a result of the movement of people and goods.

The welfare of our environment is dependent on our ability to prevent the introduction of invasive species. As a state, Hawaii contains 25% of the organisms on the list of Threatened and Endangered species, and this vulnerable biodiversity must be protected from invasive species. Many of Hawaii's unique species is already extinct. Of all the plants and birds known to be extinct in the U.S., two-thirds were from Hawaii.

The risk of invasive species introductions is increasing as we expect 600 times more cargo from Guam moving within and around the Pacific Rim in 2010 due to the marine expansion in Guam. Proposed mitigations for the marine expansion in Guam have correctly focused on the Brown Tree Snake, as it would cost the State more than \$400 million per year to manage the problem. This one invasive pest alone has caused over 1200 electrical outages in Guam from 1978 to 2004 because of its tendency to climb power lines and transformers.

There are other invasive species that would also follow this pathway such as mosquitoes and fire ants. Both pests would alter Hawaii's outdoor lifestyle and tremendously impact our economy and environment. Hawaii only has five mosquitoes, but there are hundreds of species in the Asia-Pacific rim that if established could transmit human and animal diseases, such as dengue, encephalitis, and malaria.

The impact of the red imported fire ant (RIFA) to recreation, tourism, and business, which includes golf courses, hotel/resort areas, and commercial businesses, would be nearly \$7 million a year and nearly \$135 million for foregone outdoor activities for residents and tourists. We have had two interceptions of this ant thus far, and now this pest completely surrounds us because of its presence on the West Coast, Asia, and the Pacific.

For these reasons, there is a vital need to have stronger collaboration with the federal agencies. We strongly concur that we must maximize our prevention efforts at the ports through improved communication and the operation of joint-use inspection facilities.



The Nature Conservancy
Hawai'i Program
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

tel (808) 537-4508
fax (808) 545-2019
www.nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
(Mark Fox, Director of External Affairs)
Supporting S.C.R. 72 and S.R. 43 Requesting the United States
Department of Agriculture and the United States Department of Homeland
Security to Collaborate and Share Information with the Department of Agriculture
to Prevent Invasive Species from Entering the State of Hawai'i
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture & Hawaiian Affairs
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Monday, March 23, 2009, 2:45PM, Rom 229

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.C.R. 72 and S.R. 43.

Invasive insects, diseases, snakes, weeds, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) is responsible for the inspection of domestic cargo and passengers arriving at Hawaii's ports to protect the state from introduction of unwanted plant and animal pests and diseases. The HDOA also inspects interisland shipments to prevent movement of pests between islands. The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security are responsible for inspecting international passenger and cargo arrivals.

In some instances, federal quarantine laws are primarily designed to protect mainland agriculture and do not take into account the potential risks to Hawai'i crops or native habitat. For this reason, it is essential that federal inspection agencies collaborate and share information with HDOA officials to ensure the highest possible level of protection and the smooth movement of cargo into and around the state.

The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan to enhance its own efforts with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection services, joint state-federal inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i. The financial and personnel support provided by the Legislature, including the authority to assess a reasonable service fee on incoming cargo, has been essential to implementing this plan. An critical component of the Biosecurity Plan is the cooperation and partnership of the federal inspection authorities.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Peter D. Baldwin Christopher J. Benjamin Zadoc W. Brown, Jr. Carl A. Carlson, Jr. David C. Cole
Samuel A. Cooke Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Guy Fujimura J. Stephen Goodfellow Thomas Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes
Ron Higgins Peter Ho Stanley Hong J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr.
Faye Watanabe Kurren Duncan MacNaughton Bonnie McCloskey Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer H. Monty Richards
Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles James Romig Crystal Rose Eric Yeaman

TESTIMONY
SCR 72/ SR 43
(END)