

TESTIMONY
HB 2503 HD1

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2010
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 2503, HD1
RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chairperson Hee and Members of the Committee:

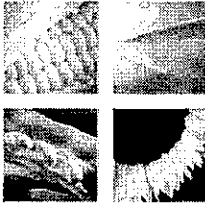
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2503, HD1, which is an Administration proposal. The purpose of this bill is to authorize expansion of the permissible users of the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund to include personnel costs for compliance monitoring. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) strongly supports this measure.

Compliance monitoring surveillance is an integral part of ensuring protection of the public and the environment. Conducting actual use inspections of agricultural and non-agricultural entities is the most important component of compliance monitoring; detecting violations before they occur rather than responding to post-use complaints. Compliance monitoring also includes inspections in the marketplace, at pesticide distributors, and at the ports of entry.

Management of the Pesticides Program is challenging with the absence of a Branch Manager. While the Plant Industry Administrator has temporarily assumed the

responsibility of acting Branch Manager in addition to his administration duties, more active and direct oversight is essential in assuring that the program continues in the right direction to provide services to protect the public and the environment.

The ability to fund compliance monitoring personnel including the Branch Manager through the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund will provide the Department with the flexibility to maintain services necessary to provide adequate monitoring in this important area.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

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Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti

HB 2503 HD1, Relating to the Environment

The Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, March 12, 2010

Room 229, 2:45 pm

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association. HCIA is a nonprofit trade association representing the agricultural seed industry in Hawaii. Now the state's largest agricultural commodity, the seed industry contributes to the economic health and diversity of the islands by providing high quality jobs in rural communities, keeping important agricultural lands in agricultural use, and serving as responsible stewards of Hawaii's natural resources.

HCIA supports the rights of farmers to utilize a variety of tools to ensure the sustainability and viability of the agricultural industry in Hawaii, and that includes integrated pest management. HB2503 HD 1 is another important initiative to look for creative ways of ensuring that the Dept. of Agriculture has the ability to carry out its mission in the area of responsible pesticide use.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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March 12, 2010

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 2503, HD 1 – RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT

Chair Hee and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association which represents 98% of all the companies involved in structural pest control. We have reservations about this bill.

Actually, we do not oppose the bill and its intent in that it provides and allows for money to be expended from the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund for other than educational purposes. We do believe that proper enforcement leads to proper applications. Proper applications leads us to less problems with any of the products our members use. Monies paid by pest control manufacturers into the Pesticides Use Revolving Fund are mixed in with all other uses including farming. We think it is important to note that farming is not the only money that is in that fund.

We have already been "slighted" as far as educational programs go and the Department provides absolutely no educational programs for this industry. When this program was first created it was "sold" to the industry based on the fact that it would only be used for education and not for enforcement. We understand the tough times that the Department is in and therefore, we can understand the need for additional revenue measures. We would however, like to request that there be a five (5) year sunset clause so that this matter will be automatically reviewed since the money was originally intended only for education but is now needed elsewhere; in five (5) years we should look at it again to see if it is still needed or if educational programs can receive the money after all. Education and training workshops lay the very foundation of enforcement measures. If people are trained and educated properly, you will need less enforcement and it is less painful for everyone involved.

So again, while we support the intent of this bill we hope that you will clarify in the Committee Report that the efforts funded should not be temporary.

Thank you.

TESTIMONY
HB 2503 HD1
(END)