

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY OF ROBERT TOYOFUKU ON BEHALF OF HAWAIIAN AIRLINES REGARDING H.B. NO. 2948, HD 1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

February 18, 2010

To: Chairman Marcus Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

My name is Bob Toyofuku and I am presenting this testimony on behalf of Hawaiian Airlines regarding H.B. No. 2948, HD 1.

Hawaiian Airlines is very much aware of the need to prevent and reduce the spread of invasive species and other pests into and among our islands. We support the protection of our islands but want to raise some concerns and questions regarding the provisions in this bill.

The primary concern with the initial bill was that it mandated written notification of all interisland shipments prior to landing at its destination. Under the current procedures this would have made it virtually impossible to comply with the requirements in the bill. It would also put a tremendous strain on the interisland operation and especially the cargo operation in terms of both labor needs. There are daily shipments of flowers and foliage from Hilo to Honolulu and produce from Honolulu to all of the neighbor islands for market. With over 160 interisland departures daily a written notification for each shipment would have an adverse impact on all the parties concerned.

The Committee on Agriculture did amend the bill to provide that the airline shall notify the Department upon request rather than upon arrival in every instance for every shipment. Although this seems to be somewhat more doable, it still creates a problem. Under the current system for the interisland shipping of goods such as flowers and produce, etc., it is not possible for the airline to provide the required information under this bill. Further, depending upon when and how often a request is made and at what

point in time the Department would like the information, this would also create a problem of compliance. It is not clear how often a request will be made and how much advance notice will be given. This legislation would require the creation of a new system for interisland shipments of goods which involve particular labor requirements and increased costs for the airline as well creating different procedures for those who are shipping goods interisland. Further, because baggage may also contain certain items listed in the bill, this also presents certain logistical issues.

Hawaiian Airlines suggests that it work with the Department to devise a more practical system that it can comply with and to minimize any disruption to interisland travel and to have a procedure that is effective in controlling the issue of invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to present the airline's comments and concerns on this measure.