



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Neighbor Islands: 1-800-482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921; e-mail: info@hfbf.org

TESTIMONY

RE: HR221/HCR305 URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK CLARIFICATION FROM THE UNITED STATES SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION REGARDING THE USE OF AIRPORT REVENUES TO PAY FOR THE OPERATIONAL COSTS OF STATE AGRICULTURAL INSPECTIONS OF INCOMING AIR CARGO AT STATE AIRPORTS.

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

HFBB on behalf of our member commercial farm and ranch families and organizations strongly supports HR221/HCR305 requesting a clarification of the use of airport revenue funds.

Several years ago a lawsuit was filed against the State as the expansion of Kahului Airport was considered. The reason for the suit was introduction of invasive species with increased air traffic and the inadequate prevention measures in place. The result is a state of the art inspection facility on Maui. At this facility and through the processes that lead to the facility various risk assessments have been done by HDOA. The results have been dramatic. There is no doubt there is invasive species traffic through air cargo.

Various laws have been put into place over time. We cannot believe that the intent behind these laws would prohibit States to protect themselves from invasive species. Also, as the lawsuit demonstrated, those initiating new operations will be called to task to demonstrate that there will not be significant environmental impact. Air traffic brings invasive species. It is reasonable that they pay their share for inspection and control. This clarification is important to make sure there is parity across the system.

We urge that this measure be passed. Thank you.