



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 14, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

HOUSE BILL NO. 1568

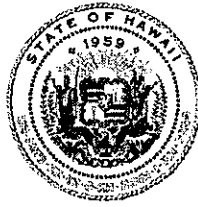
COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE

House Bill No. 1568 requires the Department of Transportation to provide space, planning, design support, and other infrastructure at various harbors and airports in the State to provide for the inspection, consolidation, deconsolidation and treatment of agricultural commodities.

We have the following concerns:

1. The responsibility to conduct inspections at ports-of-entry to Hawaii is inherently not an airport nor harbor function but one assigned to the Department of Agriculture.
2. Federal law prohibits the use of airport revenue for expenses unrelated to the capital and operating costs of the airport, the airport system, or facilities devoted to air transportation. Payments for inspectors and inspection facilities would represent a prohibited use of airport revenue.
3. Placing the burden of funding agricultural inspection facilities on DOT will divert its limited financial resources. Our primary focus is the implementation of needed airport and harbor improvements under the New Day Work projects.
4. Additionally, the DOT-Airports Division has executed grant agreements to construct airport facilities with federal funds. All grant agreements mandate that airport revenue be expended only for capital or operating costs of the airport that are directly and substantially related to the actual air transportation of passengers or property. A food storage facility as proposed falls outside this definition. As such, the use of airport revenue for this type of facility may result in the breach of this provision thereby jeopardizing the ability to receive future federal funds.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of**  
**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
**Chairperson**

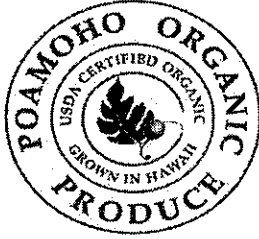
**Before the House Committees on**  
**TRANSPORTATION and AGRICULTURE**

**Monday, February 14, 2011**  
**11:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 309**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 1568**  
**RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of House Bill 1568 to establish adequate biosecurity and inspection facilities at major airports and harbors in the State to strengthen and support Hawaii's agricultural industry, but defers to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation to find the best solutions for funding and implementation.

Because transportation by air and sea have been identified as the risk pathways for invasive species into the State of Hawaii, appropriate inspection facilities and consistent inspection activities are crucial to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. These facilities are a "need to have", not just "nice to have" component of the program. By initiating and continuing the implementation of biosecurity facilities, House Bill 1568 reduces the likelihood of and economic loss associated with additional invasive species introductions and a quarantine on Hawaii's exported goods. The Department supports the intent of House Bill 1568 and urges an expeditious resolution of the issues.



Poamoho Organic Produce  
PO Box 728  
Waialua HI 96791  
808-637-4555  
[info@poamoho-organic.com](mailto:info@poamoho-organic.com)  
February 10, 2011

To: House Committee on Transportation  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Re: Hearings on February 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:00 am, Rm 309  
Subject: Testimony regarding HB 1567 & HB 1568

Aloha Committee Chairs and Committee Members,

I am an organic farmer on the North Shore of Oahu and President of the Hawaii Center for Organic Farming. Please accept my testimony on the subject Bills.

As a farmer I have always advocated for improvements to our basic infrastructure elements that support agriculture, especially at our airports and harbors to prevent invasive species. However, the case of HBs 1567 & 1568, there is a major problem regarding both the funding for the construction of the multiple facilities and for the O&M of those personnel and processes. As written, these Bills will fund these improvements with public monies. This is wrong as it will simply increase State supported subsidies of imported food; which will further increase the disparity in costs between local and imported fresh produce; which will undermine the economic stability of our local farmers; and which will impede any improvements in our food sustainability. Our food security depends solely upon a model of our agriculture industry increasing "local food for local consumption" and none of those elements within our Ag industry that export Ag product or import food measure up under that new model. Importing food IS NOT agriculture. The burden of the costs of these facilities must be placed on directly on the platter of those using the facilities – the exporters and importers – not the local farmers.

I have also noted there is some conflict between HBs 1567 & 1568 and some other Bills such as: 1) HB 1569 which directs HDoA to develop an "Import Replacement Program"; very hard to do if the State keeps subsidizing imported foods instead of local production; and 2) HB 865 which will increase the fee for inspecting imports; which attempts to recover a portion of the public monies from subsidizing imports but does not include the major costs associated with HBs 1567 & 1568.

I recommend that the language in these Bills be adjusted so that all of the costs are identified and recovered under a "fee for use" policy. Furthermore, I believe we need a better way to identify and prioritize how to invest public monies in the Agriculture sector. There is no silver bullet; therefore, I recommend that we introduce a Resolution that will integrate all of the Agriculture Bills under a plan for an "Agriculture Architecture and Implementation Plan". Mahalo.

Al Santoro, Farmer

<http://poamoho-organic.com>

[info@poamoho-organic.com](mailto:info@poamoho-organic.com)



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508  
Fax (808) 545-2019

[nature.org/hawaii](http://nature.org/hawaii)

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1568 Relating to Agriculture  
House Committee on Transportation  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Monday, February 14, 2011, 11:00AM, Rm. 309

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*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 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.*

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The Nature Conservancy strongly supports H.B. 1568 and its purpose to provide support for State Department of Agriculture biosecurity and inspection facilities at major air and sea ports throughout the state to facilitate the movement of both incoming and outgoing cargo and to protect the islands from new pest introductions.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, 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 HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan to enhance its invasive species prevention efforts at air and sea ports with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection services, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i.

Having proper, enclosed inspection and quarantine facilities at all major air and sea ports, similar to the one at Kahului airport, is one of the most important components of this Plan. The Legislature's ongoing policy and financial support of the Biosecurity Plan has been essential to its implementation, and supporting the Department of Agriculture with proper facilities at all of the State's major ports of entry is one of the most highly leveraged and cost effective things that can be done to help prevent new pests from becoming established in our islands. Evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical than eradicating a pest or, even worse, controlling it indefinitely once it becomes established.

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House of Representatives  
Committee on Transportation  
Committee on Agriculture  
Monday, February 14, 2011  
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 309  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of HB 1568

Aloha Chairs Souki and Tsjui, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species **supports HB 1568, Relating to Agriculture**. Like many other port facility users, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture provides a service that must be planned for and accommodated. Pest inspection, quarantine and destruction activities require a centrally-located facility with easy access to the transportation network that cargo can be moved into and out of quickly. The inspection of incoming and outgoing cargo is too important, and this bill takes steps to ensure that it is a priority for each port.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

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



# Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Sixth Legislature, 2011  
State of Hawaii  
Conference Room 309

Monday, February 14, 2011 11:00 A.M.

A bill for an act  
HB 1568 Relating to Agriculture

House Committee on Transportation  
Honorable Chairperson Rep. Joseph M Souki  
Honorable Vice Chairperson Rep. Linda Ichiyama  
and Committee Members

House Committee on Agriculture  
Honorable Chairperson Rep. Clift Tsuji  
Honorable Vice Chairperson Rep. Mark J. Hashem  
And Committee Members

## Supporting HB 1568 Relating to Agriculture

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the pro-tem president for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We support this bill to strengthen and support Hawaii's agricultural industry, establishes biosecurity and inspection facilities at major airports and harbors in the state. Invasive species is an important concern to Hawaii with our delicate ecosystem and our need to import products into our islands. Farms and Nurseries are well aware of the need to stop invasive species as new pests have to be controlled, which can lead to an increase in the cost of production as new controls have to be established and implemented. Then as an exporter invasive species that would threaten other areas can lead to threats of embargo and quarantines. Proper facilities are a necessity to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public. They will help to alleviate the delay of perishables being shipped via cargo transportation.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email [eric@greenpointnursery.com](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye  
Pro-Tem President  
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



**Hawaii Farm Bureau  
FEDERATION**

2343 Rose Street, Honolulu, HI 96819  
PH: (808)848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921

# LATE TESTIMONY

February 12, 2011

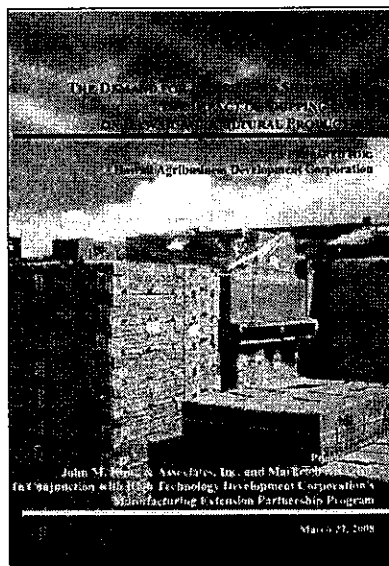
## TESTIMONY

**Re: HB1568 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chair Souki, Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committees :

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of commercial farm and ranch families and organizations in the State **STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1568**, providing biosecurity facilities related to and at specified harbors across the State.

Risk of invasive species introduction can be viewed in two ways. First high risk due to rapidity of transport ...and that is air. Air transport brings cargo from unknown destinations to Hawaii in hours, increasing the probability of survival of invasive species. The second is volume -- where sheer numbers increase the probability of introduction turning it into not a matter of "if" but rather "when" there is an introduction of a new invasive. Global transportation and eclectic tastes of consumers has introduced problems never seen before ..... beetles in fiber used for ceiling material from the Middle East or new scorpions hidden in rocks for landscape from Australia are threats from sea that never existed before. We cannot stop global trade. That means we need to get smarter about protecting ourselves. The Hawaii Biosecurity Plan does just that. In the process, it also addresses issues important to the State's smaller farmers and ranchers.



The mid 2000s saw Hawaii's economy boom and all of the harbors across the state were busy and innovative in their use of space. I visited terminals on Oahu and Maui and was amazed at what Matson and Young Brothers did. I was impressed that they could move cargo so quickly and without accidents. They were forced to go up since groundspace was limited ...and it was impressive that they could find the containers. What would happen if the economy continued to grow? They needed space!!!

The picture above is cargo that sat in the sun waiting to get in containers as workers hustled about. Now, with reduced cargo volume, YB is able to get cargo into refrigerated containers as soon as they are delivered but what if those hectic days return? Will YB have the space or should consolidation/deconsolidation be done at another location and YB only deal with consolidated cargo? This is why the biosecurity plan is important. We do not think that precious waterfront space needs to be used for consolidation and deconsolidation -- it can be done at another site . However, the process should be integrated and it is in the interest of the harbors to participate in the process.

In addition to cargo handling, we are faced with increased levels of invasive species and challenges to how we handled our products through new food safety certification requirements by our vendors. The Department of Agriculture's Hawaii Biosecurity Plan is a comprehensive plan of how we can address invasive species while protecting and growing agriculture. It has all of the pieces in one picture. This is important when resources are scarce. We cannot afford to duplicate or waste. We must be efficient and identify ways to leverage what we have. We appreciate HHUGS and the maritime companies for supporting our biosecurity efforts thusfar. It shows what cooperation can accomplish.

And finally, we do not want lack of ability to control invasives to delay harbor improvement plans. We need good harbors to provide reliable and affordable movement of goods.

We do request one correction in the document. The last sentence in section **206J-** should say "needs of Hawaii's agricultural industry" instead of Island of Oahu. We believe the intent of the Aloha Tower facility is to be the hub for a "hub and spoke" system which is our maritime cargo system. Just in time deliveries from neighbor islands often need to be segregated to go to various customers. Young Bros. has stated that when the economy resumes the day may come when Less than Container Load cargo as is currently handled may not be possible. Designs are important to prepare for that day.

We extend our appreciation to this body for considering this important initiative and request your strong support in moving this measure forward including the change mentioned above. If there are any questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718. Thank you.