

Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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L A T E

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

March 30, 2011, 9:30 A.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 865, HD2, SD1

Aloha Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club, with 8,000 dues-paying members and supporters, **supports** HB 865, HD2, SD1. This measure increases the inspection fee on freight from 50 cents to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the State.

Raising additional funding for the prevention of invasive species is critically necessary. Air and sea transportation is the major pathway for invasive species that come into the State. Hawai'i -- the endangered species capitol of the world -- is quickly losing the battle to invasive species. In order to make any progress on this problem, we need to stop the spread of new invasive species before they are established in Hawai'i. To do this, the state needs funding to conduct inspections, educate residents and officials, and coordinate policy for the future.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.



L A T E

Senate
Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 865 HD2 SD1

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species **supports HB 865 HD2 SD1, Relating to Inspection Fees.** Arriving ships and airplanes are the **ONLY** way that invasive species arrive in Hawai'i, primarily as hitchhikers on imported cargo, but sometimes in or on the crafts themselves. Inspection and quarantine work at the ports is necessary and cost effective, and CGAPS appreciates the legislature's leadership over the years in addressing Hawai'i's biosecurity needs at ports.

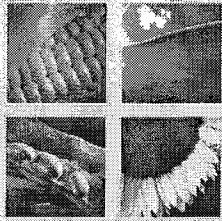
The Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund is inadequate to fund all current or necessary numbers of inspectors, or to begin building joint Federal/State inspection facilities at ports, and the loss of general funds leaves the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture few options. New RIFs will occur in March 2012 without a restoration of general funds, or an immediate increase in these special funds.

CGAPS recognizes that this fee would be passed on to consumers in Hawai'i, and that costs are rising on a number of goods and services. However, consider this: There were **663 pest interceptions of infested commodities at Honolulu International Airport** before the last RIF from July-December 2009. With furloughs and **the loss of 23 inspectors**, pest interceptions **dropped to 87** from July-December 2010. These numbers and the incalculable cost of new pests, clearly say that something needs to be done.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Aloha,

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



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

HB 865 SD 1- Relating to Inspection Fees
The Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 30, 2011
Room 211, 9:30 a.m.

L A T E

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Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing the seed industry in Hawaii. HCIA strongly supports HB 865 SD 1 relating to inspection fees.

HCIA believes that HB 865 is an important and necessary initiative to address the cutbacks to the Dept. of Agriculture as a result of Hawaii's fiscal crisis and the department's reliance on the general fund to support the ag inspector positions. The agricultural industry including the seed industry's whose shipments require inspection by the HDOA risk their long term economic viability when they cannot get their products through the inspection process in a timely manner.

We support many of these legislative efforts including fee increases to restore the Dept. of Agriculture positions, minimize the adverse impact of the budget crisis on their department, and ensure the HDOA's ability to support, promote and enhance Hawaii's agricultural industry. However, we hope that the legislature and the HDOA continue to balance this fiscal responsibility and oversight with other stakeholders that share a commitment to supporting the inspection, quarantine and eradication of invasive species coming into the state.

We believe HB 865 SD 1 is an important and necessary step in the right direction. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 30, 2011 8:12 AM
To: WAM Testimony
Cc: Karen@redwoodgames.com
Subject: Testimony for HB865 on 3/30/2011 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for WAM 3/30/2011 9:30:00 AM HB865

L A T E

Conference room: 211
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Chun
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: Karen@redwoodgames.com
Submitted on: 3/30/2011

Comments:

Invasive species are a serious threat to our agriculture. When California got the Medfly they spent hundreds of millions of dollars on eradication.

An ounce of prevention will save us \$millions. Please support this bill as a means to fully fund Ag Inspectors.