

HB 865, HD2

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

JAMES J. NAKATANI
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**THURSDAY, March 17, 2011
2:55 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 865 HD2
RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES**

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

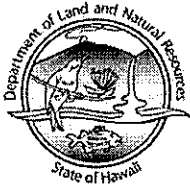
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 865 HD2, Relating to Inspection Fees.

The purpose of this Act is to increase the fee assessed for the inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species contained in any freight from 50 cents to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the State. The Plant Quarantine Branch's inspection and Biosecurity program is the only mitigation at the ports statewide for invasive pest introductions. While the Department is inclined to support further discussion about the intent of this bill, we decline to comment at this time due to on-going litigation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

**Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, March 17, 2011

2:55 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 865, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES**

House Bill 865, House Draft 2 increases the fee assessed for the inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species from 50 cents to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the State. While the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) prefers the original version of this measure which proposed a fee increase to \$1 and an effective date "upon approval", the Department nonetheless strongly supports supplementing funding for the Department of Agriculture's (DOA) Inspection Program. The Department defers to DOA on the effect the proposed fee increase in this version of the measure will have in relation to their program and funding needs.

The State's authority to adequately finance inspection of incoming cargo is critical to protecting Hawaii residents, resources, air passengers, and airport facilities against harmful cargo arriving in the State. This fee and funding mechanism is increasingly important and critical as other funding sources diminish, to support the basic core inspector program and provide salaries to retain inspectors within DOA. A proposed fee increase is reasonable as it is imposed on marine commercial container shipment, air freight, or any other means of transporting freight, foreign or domestic, but does not include aggregate bulk freight, cement bulk freight, coal bulk freight, or liquid bulk freight, that is brought into the State.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



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

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

March 16, 2011

TESTIMONY

Re: HB865 HD2 RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our commercial farm and ranch families and organizations on the island **conditionally supports** the increase the inspection fees from 50 cents to seventy five cents.

HFBF appreciates the leadership provided by this body to develop and implement an invasive species program in Hawaii in the form of the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan. Recently, we see the derailment of the program due to lack of funds. There have been a flurry of news articles recently, drops in bee population, lizards that could threaten endangered species if established, mosquitoes that could carry malaria ... could any of this be prevented? Malaria in Hawaii ...what will that do to a tourist driven economy? No bees? So much for increased self sufficiency.

The lost services are impacting our economy, environment as well as future. At the same time, we also are extremely concerned about the impact of this raise in fees to everyone.

The broad impacts of invasive species make it a logical **general funded item**. We understand the fiscal constraints of the body at this time. Decisions separating critical from just important functions need to be done. And, who should pay? Should it be spread out among everyone or limited to a certain sector? This measure spreads

the costs across the population – this is fair, as everyone will share in the benefits.

HFBF strongly believes that funding of the inspectors should be through General Funds. IF that is not possible, this measure will provide the funding mechanism to carry out this critical function.

Any increase in funds should be used to address short term needs for the State. If the amount is increased, we respectfully request language identifying use of funds and specifically those that will clearly result in short term benefits such as the restoration of inspector positions or use for critical irrigation infrastructure.

We therefore ask that this measure be **passed with a defective date** so more information about the condition of the State's budget is understood before further decisions are made.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter. If there are questions, please contact Warren Watanabe at 2819718.



HAWAII FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

P. O. Box 5594 ❖ Kailua-Kona, HI 96745-5594

Phone: 808-933-9411

Email: hawaii.forest@hawaiiantel.net

Website: www.hawaiiforest.org

March 16, 2011

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT HB865, HD2: RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES

Dear Chair Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair, Gilbert Kahele and Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB865, HD2, Relating to inspection fees.

HFIA supports the intent of H.B. 865, HD2 proposing to establish an increase the invasive species cargo inspection fee from 500 to \$1.00 for every 1,000 lbs. of cargo. However, we would also like to express our concerns about the effect of the increase on Hawai'i businesses and consumers by doubling the fee at this time and in this economy.

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 our people. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan to enhance its invasive species prevention efforts 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. The Legislature's ongoing policy and financial support of the Biosecurity Plan has been essential to its implementation.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) current cargo fees of approximately \$3.1 million annually are insufficient to cover the necessary inspection requirements at Hawaii's air and sea ports to prevent pests from entering the state. This shortfall is exacerbated by reductions in the department's general fund allocation. HFIA supports reasonable service fees and fines for failure to pay such fees. We feel this is an appropriate way to support these critical functions of the HDOA, but are concerned about the impact of the fees to Hawai'i businesses in the current economic climate. We urge the careful consideration of the timing of its implementation and the level of the increase.

HFIA is a non-profit Hawai'i organization, incorporated in 1989, which promotes a balance of forest land uses and sound management practices for all of Hawaii's forests. Our industry generates over \$35 million in business for the State, through the products and services of approximately 250 member companies and individuals. We have worked closely with the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) and the DLNR over the past 17 years to promote,

foster and develop industry standards, initiate forestry research and development, and promote quality control and industry integrity in the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Tai Lake
Chairman of the Board

Heather Gallo
Executive Director

TAXBILLSERVICE

126 Queen Street, Suite 304

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: MISCELLANEOUS, Increase invasive species inspection fee

BILL NUMBER: HB 865, HD-2

INTRODUCED BY: House Committee on Finance

BRIEF SUMMARY: Amends HRS section 150A-5.3 to increase the invasive species inspection fee from 50 cents to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the state.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2020

STAFF COMMENTS: The legislature by Act 9, SSLH 2007, adopted an inspection fee of \$1 for each 20-foot equivalent per maritime container for the inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species in any marine commercial container shipment. In 2008, the legislature by Act 3, SSLH 2008, replaced the \$1 fee charged for each 20-foot equivalent unit per marine commercial container with a fee of 50 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the state. This measure would increase the fee to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the state.

It should be remembered that since Hawaii is an island state, all goods must either be transported by air or water making the cost of transporting those goods more costly as compared to the lower 48 states where goods may be transported by ground transportation. Any additional cost imposed on the transportation of goods into the state will be passed on and be reflected in the higher prices of goods.

While the fee is deposited into the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund, it represents yet another "tax" to fund a special program as opposed to using general funds to fund such a program. Thus, in one sense, attacking this problem with a fee is an indication that this is not a problem of high priority so as to garner general fund financing, it is also a way for lawmakers to avoid being held accountable for growing government even larger and allowing government to grow beyond its means and the ability of the taxpayer to afford government in Hawaii. Note well, that the new fee is imposed on freight coming into the state and, as such, the cost of the fee will be buried in the cost of all goods and services purchased by consumers and businesses in Hawaii. The marked propensity of the legislature to resort to user fees when programs that are of a general benefit should be funded with general funds is an indication that this program is not of a high priority to most lawmakers.

Finally, it should be noted that while the proposed increase in the fee will perpetuate the use of non-general fund financing of these programs, if the legislature deems this program of great importance then the program should be funded with general funds rather than buried in the gamut of special funds out of view of the general public.

That said, based on the testimony presented to the subject committee there does not seem to be an accurate accounting of the amount of revenue generated by the current 50 cents per 1,000 pound fee and the demands of the program. Although the amount of resources is described by some witnesses as

“insufficient” there did not appear to be any public accounting of the current fee until the most recent hearing in the Finance Committee where observers indicated that the current 50 cent fee generates approximately \$3.2 million annually. Other observers believe that to be effective, the program needs approximately \$4.5 million annually. Apparently, the rate of 75 cents is expected to generate the \$4.5 million needed to run this program.

However, this highlights the problem with trying to set a fee for a program for which there is no accurate measure of the demand for the services needed. To that extent, this program should be funded by the general fund appropriation process so lawmakers can evaluate the needs of the program and give it the resources the program needs to carry out its mission and objectives. This is the weakness of special fund financing.

Digested 3/15/11



CONSERVATION COUNCIL FOR HAWAII

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Hearing: Thursday, March 17, 2011

2:55 p.m.

Room 229

Support for HB 865 HD 2 Relating to Inspection Fees

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 865 HD 2 to increase much-needed funds to inspect incoming cargo at Hawai'i ports of entry to prevent invasive species from entering the islands. Funding agricultural inspections is one of the most important investments we can make to our agricultural industry, quality of life, and environment. Invasive species are one of the most serious threats to the environment and economy, costing the State millions of dollars to control once established, and in the loss of crops, watershed cover, and wildlife habitats. Please use your leadership position to do something about this, and pass HB 865 HD 2 out of committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814

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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler



Senate
Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 17, 2011
2:55 p.m., Conference Room 229
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 865 HD2

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species **supports HB 865 HD2, 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. 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, looking at the drastic reduction in pest interceptions since the last RIF (663 interceptions on Oahu from July-December 2009, down to 87 interceptions from July-December 2010), and the incalculable cost of new pests, clearly something needs to be done.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

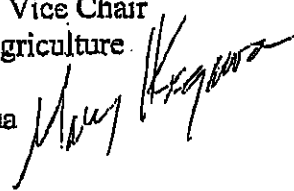
Aloha,

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

March 16, 2011

TO: Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senator Gilbert Kahele, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Mary Ikagawa, Kailua



RE: In SUPPORT of HB 865-HD2. (Increases the fee assessed for the inspection, quarantine and eradication of invasive species.) Scheduled to be heard Thursday, March 17 at 2:55 p.m. in Conference Room 229

Given the very high costs each invasive species can impose on the State, this fee increase must be given serious consideration. Effective control of invasive species requires an uninterrupted funding stream, and the user fees proposed are not unreasonable. There is not enough money now to fund the needed inspectors or port facilities.

Since prevention is always the cheapest option, my vote is for that. I hope you will pass HB 865-HD2.

HB 865-RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES

The Senate Committee on Agriculture

March 17, 2011

Position: Strongly Support

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice- Chair Kahele and members of the Committee:

My name is Sanford Sasaki and I am testifying today as a very concerned citizen. I **strongly support this HB 865**. Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health of its people.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has indicated that current cargo fee collections of approximately \$3.1 million annually are insufficient to cover the necessary inspection requirements at Hawaii's air and sea ports to prevent pests from entering the state.

However, recent cutback by the Dept. of Agriculture, as a result of Hawaii's economic crisis and the State's reliance on the general fund to support the agricultural inspector positions. The State is in dire straits combating invasive species that will likely infiltrate into the islands due to inadequate staffing of Ag inspectors.

The intent of the original bill in 2007 was to charge \$1.00 per ton, but as democracy ran its course, the bill was passed, allowing .50 cents to be charged to maritime freight. In 2008, amendments were enacted to broaden the scope of the invasive species user fee from one that assessed fees only on freight brought into Hawaii by maritime containers to one that assessed fees on all modes by which commercial freight is brought into the State, including air and maritime containerized and non-containerized freight.

Unfortunately, at this time HB865 HD2 has been amended to the rate of .75 cents per ton. With only a .25 cents increase and the airlines not contributing to the State's responsibility on preventing invasive species entering into Hawaii.

I ask the Senate Committee on Agriculture to amend HB865 HD2 to increase the rate to \$1.00 per ton. The amount of the original intent of SB1066 SD2 HD2 CD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2011 1:02 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HB865 on 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGL 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM HB865

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Davlantes
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ndavlantes@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/16/2011

Comments:

Invasive species are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's environment--once they take hold, they are difficult, if not impossible, to get rid of. Increasing increase the fee for inspection, quarantine and eradication of invasive species contained in any freight from \$0.50 to \$0.75 for every 1000 pounds brought into the state would provide additional funds to support the agriculture inspector positions in light of the current state budget crisis. We must have the resources so that all incoming freight can be thoroughly inspected.

Kaleleonalani Napoleon
744 Kanaha Street Kailua, Hawai'i 96734
knapoleo@hawaii.edu

**TO: THE HONORABLE CLIFT TSUJI
THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE**

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 2:55PM, Room 229

From: Kaleleonalani Napoleon, MS Botany, University of Hawai'i, Myron B Thompson School of Social Work Masters Candidate

Re: Support in favor of HB865 RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice- Chair Kahele and members of the Committee,

As a 2004 graduate of the University of Hawaii Botany Masters Program, I was bombarded by the effects that alien species have on our native environment. The statistics are staggering.

- Although the Hawaiian Islands encompass only two tenths of one percent (0.002!) of the size of the United States, the Hawaiian Islands account for nearly 70% of the United States' historically documented plant and animal extinctions.
- Just as the Hawaiian Islands are known as the world's capital of endemic species, sadly, it may be considered the capital of extinct species.
- Currently, more than one third of the plant and animal species on the federal threatened or endangered, proposed or candidates species lists are Hawaiian species.
- More than 382 species are listed as either threatened or endangered under the federal and state Endangered Species Acts.*
- This list includes 63 Hawaiian birds, snails, insects, turtles, the Hawaiian monk seal, and the humpback whale; and approximately 319 endangered species and subspecies of plants.*
- *Note: These totals do not include the federal proposed or candidates' species lists.
- Researchers estimate that approximately 50% percent of the plants and animals on the federal endangered species list are jeopardized at least partly by invasive plants. Hawaii is the worst victim of this tragedy.
- Despite the efforts of more than 20 state, federal, and private agencies, unwanted alien pests are entering Hawai'i at an alarming rate - about 2 million times more rapid than the natural rate. In 1993, the federal Office of Technology Assessment declared Hawaii's alien pest species problem the worst in the nation. This is an embarrassing label!

The intent of HB865 was to increase the inspection fee from 50 cents to \$1 for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought to our islands. The decreased rate of 75 cents is insufficient. Please help to protect our endangered species by increasing the funding available to the Dept. of Agriculture, ultimately increasing funding for Ag. Inspector staffing, thus decreasing alien introductions to our Hawai'i nei.

I ask the Senate Committee on Agriculture to amend HB865 HD2 and change the rate back to the original \$1.00 per ton.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 11:22 PM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Subject: Testimony for HB865 on 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGL 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM HB865

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lee McIntosh
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: web@cartoonistforchrist.org
Submitted on: 3/14/2011

Comments:

Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Aloha, my name is Lee McIntosh. I live in Kau on the Big Island. I am not in favor of HB 865, which increases the fees for inspection on imported freight. Why are you making life more difficult for us by increasing fees that will be passed on to us, the customer, when the majority of our products are imported? Please do not pass this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 865.



Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Intent of H.B. 865 HD2 Relating to Inspection Fees
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 17, 2011, 2:55PM, Rm. 229

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.

The Nature Conservancy supports the intent of H.B. 865 HD 2 proposing to increase the invasive species cargo inspection fee from 50¢ to 75¢ for every 1,000 lbs. of cargo. We are concerned about both the perception and effect on Hawai'i businesses and consumers by increasing the fee at this time and in this economy. However, according to the Department of Agriculture, the current 50¢ charge is not sufficient to cover inspection costs, particularly if the department's general fund allocation for inspection activities is further reduced in FY12 as proposed by the Administration's budget package.

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 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. The Legislature's ongoing policy and financial support of the Biosecurity Plan has been essential to its implementation.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has indicated that current cargo fee collections of approximately \$3.1 million annually are insufficient to cover the necessary inspection requirements at Hawaii's air and sea ports to prevent pests from entering the state. This shortfall is exacerbated by past and proposed reductions in the department's general fund allocation.

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports reasonable service fees, and meaningful fines for failure to pay such fees, for the HDOA's invasive species inspection, quarantine and eradication activities. This is an appropriate way to support the critical functions of the HDOA to protect our economy, environment, health, and lifestyle from the introduction and spread of pests and diseases.

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Poamoho Organic Produce
PO Box 728
Waialua HI 96791
808-637-4555
info@poamoho-organic.com
March 15, 2011

To: Senate Committee on Agriculture
Re: Hearings on March 17th, 2:55 pm, Rm 229
Subject: Testimony Regarding HB 865 & 866

Aloha Committee Chair 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 updated testimony on the subject Bills.

In regard to HB 865: To Raise Inspection Fees for Imports: After reviewing all of the testimony submitted for this Bill I noticed that I am the only individual farmer submitting written testimony. I also noted that none of the other testimony brings attention to the fact that our State presently subsidizes the importation of fresh produce and that this Bill will continue that subsidy. Knowing that our costs to produce food here are more expensive, any public monies that pay for inspections of imports are in fact subsidies to mainland agribusinesses and local importers and will continue to undermine already tough competition for myself and all of our local food growers. This Bill should be amended to first implement the proposed hikes for this year but also to task the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDoA) to identify ALL of its budgeted expenses associated with this inspection effort so that a follow-on Bill can implement a fee that covers and replaces ALL of these budgeted costs.

In regard to HB 866: To Register Bee hives: I also reviewed the written testimony for this Bill and noted that the testimony of the only two beekeepers, that of myself and Mr. Howard McGinnis, has been largely ignored. There is no worse news to Hawaii's beekeepers than this Bill that appropriates monies to establish a beehive registration capability at HDoA but does nothing to repair damage, treat existing infestations or prevent future events. Our HDoA is largely responsible for the original case of varroa mites by allowing transshipments of infected bees through the Honolulu airport as well as the case of small hive beetles on Oahu due to allowing the importation of infected bee hives from the Big Island to Kunia. Not only is there neither advocacy nor any expertise for beekeeping at HDoA there is only bureaucratic over-regulation that eliminated the only treatment for the varroa mite, a natural and organic application of formic acid. The appropriation of monies to HDoA is entirely misdirected and should be re-directed to the UH Bee Lab which is the only State institution that has proven results of both advocacy and expertise.

Al Santoro

<http://poamoho-organic.com>

info@poamoho-organic.com

**HB 865 HD2
RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES**

**PAUL T. OSHIRO
MANAGER – GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, INC.**

LATE

MARCH 17, 2011

Chair Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture:

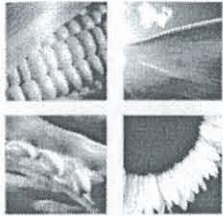
I am Paul Oshiro, testifying on behalf of Alexander & Baldwin, Inc. (A&B) and Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (a subsidiary of A&B) on HB 865 HD2, "A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INSPECTION FEES." We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this bill.

In 2008, amendments were enacted to broaden the scope of the invasive species user fee from one that assessed fees only on freight brought into Hawaii by maritime containers to one that assessed fees on all modes by which commercial freight is brought into the State, including air and maritime containerized and non-containerized freight. We support the present broad based application of the invasive species user fee that requires all transporters to pay for these inspection services through the payment of this fee.

Matson has dedicated a considerable amount of time, effort, and expense to implement the assessment, collection, and disbursement of this new fee by the effective date of August 1, 2008. We were successful in starting up the collection of this new fee by the effective date and have since been diligently proceeding with its implementation.

This bill increases the amount of the invasive species user fee to provide additional funding for the Hawaii Biosecurity Program. We understand that this program consists of several components that are necessary to comprehensively control the infestation of invasive species in the State of Hawaii. In that this multi-faceted program also includes several initiatives outside of port of entry inspections, your continued consideration to provide a broad based source of funding for this program, in addition to funds derived from the invasive species user fee, would be greatly appreciated.

Your consideration is greatly appreciated.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony By: Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director

HB 865 HD 2 - Relating to Inspection Fees
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 17, 2011
Room 229, 2:55 p.m.

LATE

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Alicia Maluafiti

Position: Strong Support

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, 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 HD 2 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 HD 2 is an important and necessary step in the right direction. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 17, 2011, 2:55 P.M.
(Testimony is 1 page long)

LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 865, HD2

Aloha Chair Nishihara 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. 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.

nishihara5 - Randy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 12:20 AM
To: AGL Testimony
Cc: abaalto@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB865 on 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Testimony for AGL 3/17/2011 2:55:00 PM HB865

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anthony aalto
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: abaalto@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/17/2011

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Ige and members of the committee, Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

It would appear that one of the principal arguments used by opponents of this bill is that these inspections should be paid for with monies from the General Fund.

This suggestion has one unintended and perverse effect: it would force farmers in Hawaii to subsidize the costs of their out-of-island competitors. Farmers in Hawaii pay taxes into the General Fund, some of those monies would then be used to inspect produce that would be sold in the marketplace in competition with local produce.

Furthermore, that imported produce is often manufactured by vast out of state agribusinesses that do not reinvest their profits in our community.

At a time when the state is committed to boosting it's meagre food self-sufficiency and helping local farmers, it makes no sense to force them to underwrite their competitors' expenses.

I respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo
anthony aalto



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LATE

March 16, 2011

House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 17, 2011
2:55 p.m., Conference Room 229
State Capitol

Dear Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 865 HD2 Relating to Inspection Fees

The Aloha Arborist Association (AAA) supports HB 865 HD2 to increase the fee assessed for the inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species contained in any freight from 50 cents to 75 cents for every 1,000 pounds of freight brought into the State. It is much less costly to prevent entry of invasive species than to attempt to control or eradicate such species once they are here. The proposed implementation date for this measure should be moved up from July 1, 2020, to July 1, 2014, or earlier. We are an organization of 80 individuals and companies who work in the tree care industry.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Connolly
President