



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON FINANCE

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012
1:30 PM
ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1941 HD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairpersons Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1941 HD1. The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for agricultural inspection facilities and related infrastructure. We strongly support this measure and respectfully offer one recommendation.

Pursuant to the proviso inserted into DOT's budget during the 2010 Legislative session, DOT asked us, last December, to work on biosecurity specifications at ports statewide. The proviso stated, "Provided that of the revenue bond fund appropriation for the Honolulu international airport, Elliot street support facilities, Oahu, (TRN 102), the department of transportation in conjunction with the department of agriculture shall study the **biosecurity needs of the State**, including the need for the establishment of a biosecurity inspection facility at the Honolulu international airport, and submit a report of the findings and recommendations to the legislature at least 20 days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2011."



HDOA completed the draft of the biosecurity facility specification document in December 2011 and turned it over to DOT for review and comment. Over the past year, HDOA and DOT-Harbors have had discussions over possible sites at Kapalama, Kawaihae, Hilo, and Kahului Harbor. HDOA feels that it is crucial to prevent any negative impact on harbor activities and is supportive of working within DOT-specified areas on-port, off-port in close proximity, or utilizing related infrastructure to mitigate invasive species movement. The Aloha Tower marketplace proposal was offered as a starting point for discussing the feasibility of a deconsolidation and “marketplace” concept with the understanding that the project was *not* site specific and could be discussed similarly in other locations in Honolulu. HDOA respectfully requests that the bill be amended to change the “marketplace concept” section by allowing the funds to start initial planning studies including, but not limited to, location, environmental, branding, marketing studies, and initial design (as necessary) of such a facility. As such, we respectfully recommend that on page 4, Lines 17 through 19, that the language be changed from “Honolulu harbor, Oahu Plans, design, and construction of a deconsolidation facility and marketplace” to “Honolulu harbor, Oahu Planning and preliminary design of a deconsolidation facility and marketplace”.

Biosecurity Inspection facilities at airports are far more critical due to the airport system being the highest-risk pathway in which invasive species enter the State, and the absence of adequate inspection areas and treatment/destruction capability. DOT-Airports has offered several locations at Honolulu International Airport and Kona International Airport. Support of this measure would move these projects forward.

The funding for the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling facility is an example of moving activities off-port into production areas and not necessarily have consolidation/deconsolidation solely a port activity. The main objective is to lower the high amounts of leafy greens imported into the State by growing the products within the State and moving that product to other parts of the State. Over the past decade, data from risk assessments has proven that importation of leafy greens is a significant risk to the State because of the high percentage of infestation, presence of “not known to

occur" pests, and high percentage of shipments that required treatment and/or destruction.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 24, 2012
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1941, HOUSE DRAFT 1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURE INSPECTION FACILITIES
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

House Bill 1941, House Draft 1 proposes an appropriation of \$17,000,000 from the Agricultural Development and Food Security Special Fund to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for the purpose of planning, designing, and constructing biosecurity facilities at Honolulu International Airport, Kona International Airport, and Kawaihae Harbor, as well as a deconsolidation facility and marketplace at Honolulu Harbor, and the renovation of the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports enhancement of invasive species detection and prevention capacity at our ports and defers to DOA and the Department of Transportation on the details of type and location of facilities and funding needed to improve the agricultural inspection and biosecurity programs.

DLNR recognizes the severe impacts that invasive species could have on the State's agriculture, natural resources and public health and safety. DLNR welcomes the enhancement of invasive species detection and prevention capacity across the State.



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

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February 24, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1941, HD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES AND
RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Room 308
1:30 PM

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF is in strong support of HB1941, HD1, providing appropriation for critical biosecurity facilities.

Several years ago, a state of the art biosecurity facility was constructed on Maui. It was constructed as part of an agreement resulting from a lawsuit associated with the proposed extension of the runway at Kahului Airport. The state spent significant amount of resources in the lawsuit.

Today, transportation infrastructure across the state is need of improvement. As EIS and EA steps are taken, there will be the inevitable question – are protections in place to guard against invasive species. We have a choice today of taking a lesson from the past and proactively placing the guards in place or wait and be forced to do it under lawsuits and delayed projects.

Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major victims when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced

into the State while control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

New food safety requirements will look at the entire system from farm to fork. This means our harbors, ports and transportation system must be able to transport agricultural products preserving integrity that includes temperature control and protection from elements. This measure is a proactive step to meeting these conditions.

HFBF respectfully requests your strong support of this measure as a proactive step to improve transportation infrastructure across the State.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.



The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1941 HD1 Making an Appropriation for Agriculture Inspection
Facilities and Related Infrastructure
House Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2012, 1:30PM, Rm. 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i'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 10 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 H.B. 1941 HD1 and the appropriation of funds from the agricultural development and food security special fund to finance inspection, consolidation and treatment facilities at or near Hawai'i's air and seaports.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawai'i's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Program to enhance its invasive species prevention efforts at air and sea ports with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection systems and services, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i.

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. Having properly designed and controlled facilities for consolidation, inspection and, if necessary, treatment of cargo is essential to an effective biosecurity strategy, as well as to the efficient movement of goods into and out of the islands.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
Friday, February 24, 2012
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1941 HD1

Aloha Chair Oshiro, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1941 HD1**, *Making an appropriation for agricultural inspection facilities and related infrastructure*, which appropriates funds from the agriculture development and food security special fund for the planning, design and construction of biosecurity facilities, among other uses.

When HDOA conducted the Kahului Airport Pest Risk Assessment, they found an average of one new (not known to exist in Hawai'i) pest or plant disease arriving each day. Prior to the opening of the joint federal/state inspection facility at Kahului Airport, inspectors worked with poor lighting, on fold-out tables, in make-shift work spaces, and sometimes opened boxes on the tarmac. Today, this is how inspectors routinely work at Honolulu International Airport and other ports. Your support of HB 1941 HD1 is greatly appreciated. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)
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FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1941 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB1941

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Warren Watanabe
Organization: MCFB
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Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments: