



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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND TRANSPORTATION
AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28, 2012
9:35 A.M.
ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 1941 HD2 SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1941 HD2 SD1. The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation for agricultural inspection facilities and related infrastructure. We strongly support this measure and respectfully request one amendment.

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.

Our requested amendment would be to change language in Section 1, Page 3 lines 2 and 4 of the bill from “**Hawaii-grown high risk commodities**” to “**Hawaii-grown commodities**” to provide clarity that the desire is to reduce the importation of high risk commodities into Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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

March 28, 2012

COMMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**H.B. 1941, HD2, SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

The Department of Transportation (DOT) provides comments on the following appropriations proposed in this bill:

Kawaihae Harbor: A proposed one acre site for the Department of Agriculture (DOA) biosecurity, inspection and quarantine facility has been identified at Kawaihae Harbor in the Hawaii Island Commercial Harbors 2035 Master Plan update. DOA shall be responsible to plan, design, construct and operate the facility.

Honolulu Harbor: DOA proposes to combine a deconsolidation facility with the development of a large public marketplace. Locations have been proposed in the Aloha Tower Complex or as an alternative, to expand the current location of the existing Plant Quarantine Branch by taking land from DOT's proposed Kapalama container yard project. The use of land from the proposed Kapalama container yard project poses impacts to our current development plan and will require further discussion with DOT. DOA shall be responsible for the plans and preliminary design of the facility.

Locations for facilities at Honolulu International Airport and Kona International Airport at Keahole have not been finalized. There are options to renovate existing facilities and there are sites available for new facilities. For either alternative DOA shall be responsible to fund the plans, design, construction and operation of the facility. The Department has been informed by the Federal Aviation Administration that the Grant Assurances between the State of Hawaii and the United States of America require that the Department of Agriculture pay rent for the land facilities they occupy and in the case where an existing building will be used for the function, building rent as well.

For all new facilities on DOT properties, DOA will be responsible to secure all environmental approvals.

As the capital improvements appropriations will be expended by DOA, we strongly recommend that Section 4 of the bill be revised to delete references to DOT and name only DOA to submit a report on the status of the projects.





Testimony In Support of HB 1941 HD2
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION
FACILITIES AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Public Hearing 28 March 2012 9:35am
Conference Room 211

Audrey Newman
Hawaii Green Growth Initiative
P.O. Box 535, Hoolehua, Hawai'i 96729

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

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Green Growth Initiative (HGG) in support of HB1941. HGG brings leaders from the energy, food, and environmental sectors together to achieve Hawaii's sustainability goals and to be a model for building a green economy. Our members and advisors include more than 50 leaders from government, private, and non-profit organizations in Hawai'i. HGG recognizes that invasive species threaten Hawai'i's economy and sustainability, posing very serious impacts for agriculture, energy, public health, native ecosystems, tourism and more.

We ask you to support HB1941, which makes an appropriation for infrastructure related to agricultural inspections and biosecurity at Honolulu International Airport, Kona International Airport, Kawaihae Harbor, Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant, and Honolulu Harbor. These facilities are critical to preventing invasive species from entering our state. Invasive species can be expensive to monitor and control and can have irreversible impacts on our economy, natural resources and way of life. Recent discoveries of invasive pests such as coffee berry borer, small hive beetle, varroa mite, banana bunchy top virus, and 'Oh'ia rust have demonstrated the negative economic impact that invasive species can have on Hawai'i's agricultural and horticultural industries as well as Hawai'i's ability to produce food locally for its citizens.

HB1941 HD1 included a value of \$17 million for this appropriation, but the amount was removed and left blank in HD2 by the House Finance Committee. We encourage you to restore a value to this bill of no less than \$17 million to ensure that the proper facilities are constructed to maximize efficacy in inspecting agricultural commodities.

Mahalo nui for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Audrey Newman".

Audrey Newman
Senior Advisor, Global Island Partnership (GLISPA)
Promoting action for island conservation and sustainable livelihoods.
www.glispa.org



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 28, 2012
9:35 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1941 HD2 SD1

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1942 HD2 SD1**, *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, and this leaves all of Hawai'i at risk. Your support of HB 1941 HD2 SD1 is greatly appreciated. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

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

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai‘i
Supporting H.B. 1941 SD1 Making an Appropriation for Agriculture Inspection
Facilities and Related Infrastructure
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 9:35AM, Rm. 211

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 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 SD2 and the issuance of general obligation bonds to finance inspection, consolidation and treatment facilities at or near Hawaii’s air and seaports.

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 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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