

# **HB1941 HD2**

Testimony

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

March 13, 2012

**H.B. 1941, H.D. 2**  
**MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES**  
**AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

SENATE COMMITTEE(S) ON AGRICULTURE  
and ON TRANSPORTATION & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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 fund the plans, design, construction and operation of 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 to fund the plans, design, construction and operation of the facility.

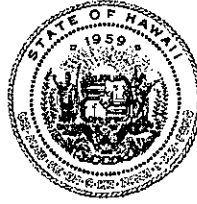
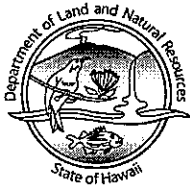
Locations for facilities at Honolulu International Airport and Kona International Airport at Keahole have not been finalized. There are options to renovate existing facilities and there are sites available for new facilities. For either alternative DOA, shall be responsible to fund the plans, design, 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 it occupies 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 will be funded 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.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE  
and  
TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
2:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1941, HOUSE DRAFT 2  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURE INSPECTION FACILITIES  
AND RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE**

House Bill 1941, House Draft 2 proposes an unspecified appropriation 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.



The Senate  
Committee on Agriculture  
Committee on Transportation and International Affairs  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012  
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 229  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of HB 1941 HD2

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and English, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1942 HD2**, *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 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 HD2 Making an Appropriation for Agriculture Inspection  
Facilities and Related Infrastructure  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Transportation and International Affairs  
Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 2:45PM, Rm. 229

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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 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.*

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The Nature Conservancy **supports** H.B. 1941 HD2 and the appropriation of funds from the agricultural development and food security special fund 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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**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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March 13, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB1941, HD2  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR AGRICULTURAL INSPECTION FACILITIES AND  
RELATED INFRASTRUCTURE

Room 229  
2:45 PM

Chair Nishihara, Chair English, and Members of the Committees:

I am Mae Nakahata, representing 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, HD2 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 and restoration funding and effective date to this measure as a proactive step to improve transportation infrastructure across the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this important measure.