

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 Committees on**  
**AGRICULTURE**  
**and**  
**TRANSPORTATION**

**Wednesday, February 8, 2012**  
**11:00 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

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

House Bill 1941 proposes an 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 funding for biosecurity and deconsolidation facilities totals \$16M, while the cost of renovating the Kamuela Vacuum Cooling Plant is unspecified. 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.



COORDINATING GROUP ON  
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012  
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 312  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of HB 1941

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Souki, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 1941, *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 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 Making an Appropriation for Agriculture Inspection  
Facilities and Related Infrastructure  
House Committee on Agriculture  
House Committee on Transportation  
Wednesday, February 8, 2012, 11:00AM, Rm. 312

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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 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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