

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2012
1:30 PM
ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1942 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairpersons Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1942 HD1. The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to the department for the funding of the electronic importer manifest program. We strongly support this measure.

The Importer Manifest program allows the Department to prioritize inspection prior to importation enabling the department to utilize staffing more effectively. For importers, the manifest system allows the perishable commodities to go to transitional inspection facilities and be released if the commodity is low-risk instead of being held for inspection thereby alleviating congestion. Inspection will be done on-site at the transitional facility for high- and medium-risk commodities allowing for better detection of pests. Low risk commodities will be randomly selected for inspection.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
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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 1942, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Bill 1942, House Draft 1 proposes amending Section 150A-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add the electronic importer manifest program as an authorized use of funds in the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund, and proposes an appropriation from that fund to be expended by the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to implement the electronic importer manifest program. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) supports this measure and defers to DOA on the specific language regarding the use of the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund and the amount of the funds required to successfully implement the Program.

DLNR recognizes the challenge of inspecting the large volume of cargo entering the State and acknowledges the severe impacts that invasive species transported in cargo containers could have on the State's natural resources and public health and safety. DLNR welcomes the implementation of technology that increases the efficacy of inspections.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1942 HD1 Relating to Agriculture
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 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. 1942 HD1, which would make clear that the State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) may spend revenue from its cargo inspection fee program on fully implementing an electronic shipping manifest program.

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. 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. 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.

A key component of HDOA's Biosecurity Program is automating and electronically linking the department's inspection database system with shipping manifests for air and sea cargo arriving in Hawai'i. When electronically linked, HDOA inspectors are able to make much more informed decisions about the types of cargo arriving in Hawai'i before it arrives, including the risk of that cargo containing invasive pests and what level of inspection, if any, is needed.

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

Testimony in Support of HB 1942 HD1

Aloha Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee,
The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1942 HD1, *Relating to Invasive Agriculture***, which would allow moneys in the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund to be expended for the electronic importer manifest program, and makes an appropriation for the program.

This bill would allow HDOA to expand the electronic importer manifest program, which is a web-based program that importers of produce and other commodities would use to list their upcoming imports. The detailed web manifest can be viewed by HDOA-PQ inspectors to see the types of produce, cut flowers and other commodities being imported, the origin of the commodity, the number of cases or pieces, the airline, date and time of expected arrival of each commodity. With this web-based system, the inspector could then prioritize inspections according to risk, release low risk commodities, and let the importer know which commodities to hold for inspection. A prototype of the system is already in place, and it has helped in maximizing limited staff, reducing air cargo space issues, expediting clearance of low risk commodities, maintaining food quality and food safety. The pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund as a funding source is an appropriate. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

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

FINTestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 23, 2012 12:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HB1942 on 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 2/24/2012 1:30:00 PM HB1942

Conference room: 308
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Warren Watanabe
Organization: MCFB
E-mail: warrenmcfb@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 2/23/2012

Comments: