

HB1942 HD2

Testimony

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2012
2:50 P.M.
ROOM 229

HOUSE BILL NO. 1942 HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

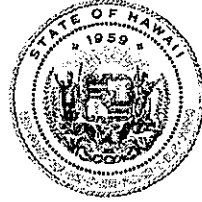
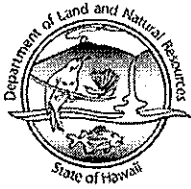
Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1942 HD1. The purpose of this Act is to make an appropriation to the department for the funding of the electronic importer manifest program. We strongly support this measure.

The Importer Manifest program allows the Department to prioritize inspection prior to delivery 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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Tuesday, March 13, 2012
2:50 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1942, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

House Bill 1942, House Draft 2 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.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
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March 13, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1942, HD2
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:50 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and Members of the Committee:

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 HB 1942, HD2, providing mechanisms for funding towards the implementation of the electronic importer manifest program.

Technology has advanced. When you return a car to Avis, a person with an electronic device process your return and prints a receipt ... all without the intervention of data entry by the worker. Fed Ex commercials on TV show tracking of packages as it travels across the country.

At the same time, it is an undeniable fact that the threat of invasive species entering Hawaii is on the increase. Globalization makes this inevitable. Use of technology to expand HDOA's efficiency in protecting Hawaii must be a priority.

We respectfully request your strong support with restoration of funding and effective date of the measure.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1942 HD2 Relating to Agriculture
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 2:50PM, Rm. 229

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 HD2, 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.

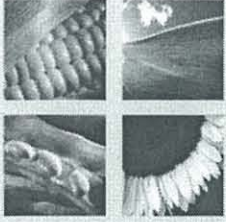
Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. Evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical 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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Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
HB 1942 HD 2 – Relating to Agriculture
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, March 13, 2012
2:50 p.m., Room 229

Position: Support

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, and members of the Committees:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii's seed farmers. HCIA **strongly supports** HB 1942 HD 2 which would allow the State Dept. of Agriculture to expend funding for the implementation of the electronic importer manifest program.

HCIA believes that HB 1942 is another important and necessary initiative to ensure a more efficient and effective State Department of Agriculture especially in light of the cutbacks that impacts their ability to work on behalf of Hawaii farmers. The agricultural industry including the seed industry's whose shipments require inspection by the HDOA risk their long term economic viability when they cannot get their products through the inspection process in a timely manner.

We support many of these legislative efforts including fee increases to restore the Dept. of Agriculture positions, minimize the adverse impact of the budget crisis on their department, and ensure the HDOA's ability to support, promote and enhance Hawaii's agricultural industry. However, we hope that the legislature and the HDOA continue to balance this fiscal responsibility and oversight with other stakeholders that share a commitment to supporting the inspection, quarantine and eradication of invasive species coming into the state.

We believe HB 1942 HD 2 is an important, necessary and cost effective step in the right direction. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.