



House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012  
8:00 a.m., Conference Room 312  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of HB 1942

Aloha Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **strongly supports HB 1942, Relating to Invasive Agriculture.** This bill would allow HDOA to build an electronic manifest program to notify HDOA-PQ inspectors of the types of commodities being imported into the state prior to the arrival of the plane. The inspector could then prioritize inspections according to risk and release low risk commodities, resulting in:

- *Effective and efficient use of the limited staff at the ports;*
- *Expedited inspections to maintain food quality and food safety;*
- *Airlines' ability to release cargo as they are cleared.*

The airport electronic manifest program is modeled after the maritime transporter manifest prototype, developed for one maritime transportation company and HDOA-PQ. The maritime transporter manifest system was supported by the maritime industry and the Hawaii Department of Transportation, Harbors Division as it provides a short-term solution to relieve harbor congestion at the container yards. In 2011, CGAPS secured funding for HDOA to begin working with a single air cargo carrier on planning and testing an air carrier electronic manifest as a pilot project, and work to date has consisted of planning meetings, although an air cargo company has not yet been selected or approached.

This bill would ensure that this program moves forward with financial backing. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1942 Relating to Agriculture  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 1, 2012, 8:00AM, Rm. 312

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawai'i'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. 1942, 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 Hawai'i'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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