

HB2100 HD2

University of Hawaii;
Statewide Bee Research
EDU/AGL, WAM



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION AND AGRICULTURE
MARCH 19, 2012
1:15 P.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 2100 HD2
RELATING TO BEES

Chairpersons Tokuda and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2100 SD2. This bill proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo (UHH) for the development of a new bee hive research area at the University's farm in Panaewa.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture supports the bill. Small hive beetle arrived in the state in 2010 and has already been detected on the Big Island, Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. It has added another major management problem for beekeepers, who are still trying to cope with the arrival of varroa mite in 2007. Small hive beetle is not easily controlled by chemicals and current trapping methods are messy, expensive, and labor intensive. The Department believes in the importance of this research and developing an enhanced working relationship between the University of Hawaii and USDA.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education
And the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Monday, March 19, 2012 at 1:15 p.m.
by
Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi
Professor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 2100, HD2 RELATING TO BEES

Chairs Tokuda, Nishihara, Vice Chairs Kidani, Kahele and Members of the Committees:

My name is Dr. Lorna Tsutsumi and I am a Professor of Entomology at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management. For over 20 years, UHH has offered the only credited catalogued beekeeping courses within the UH system. The two courses, beginning beekeeping and advanced beekeeping, provide UHH students with the opportunity to learn about honey bees and gain valuable hands-on experience in the maintenance and cultivation of honey bees.

Honey bees are responsible for the pollination of many important agricultural crops and their health and well-being is especially important as we strive to lessen our dependency on imports. There are several major pests of honey bees in Hawai'i such as the small hive beetle and the Varroa mite that are reducing colony numbers thus adversely affecting the beekeeping industry and crops that are dependent on honey bee pollination.

Recently, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo partnered with a local chef to promote honey bee awareness through a program, "Adopt a Beehive with Alan Wong". The program serves as a medium that bridges the public and private sector for a common good that generates resources for UHH beekeeping students and allows for public involvement through student communication and activities.

There are presently 25 bee hives at the UHH apiary located on the 110 acre Panaewa farm that are used for the hands-on beekeeping laboratories. The hives are assigned to students who learn manipulation skills and then send public "adopters" monthly updates on the status of their hives. In addition to these hives, the UHH farm has a one acre bee friendly educational garden, Mapuhonehone. The garden contains 1) a variety of plants that are used by honey bees and man, 2) plants that are tied into the history of beekeeping in Hawai'i, and 3) other requirements for honey bee needs such as water.

An additional need to complement the teaching apiary and the educational garden and advance honey bee awareness is another apiary that will be used primarily for research. The hives in this apiary will be used for applied research projects to develop control measures and devices to help maintain healthy honey bee colonies. An area on the UHH farm has already been designated for this apiary and this bill will provide moneys to support a functioning research apiary. Since the research will be conducted on the bee hives at the farm, researchers and students will have the opportunity to conduct meaningful, applicable experiments to improve honey bee wellness and productivity for Hawai'i.

Finally, we support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Regents approved supplemental budget.

Thank you for providing this opportunity to testify on HB 2100, HD2.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

2343 Rose Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Phone: (808) 848-2074 • Neighbor-Islands: (800) 482-1272
Fax: (808) 848-1921 • Email: info@hfbf.org
www.hfbf.org

March 19, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2100, HD2
RELATING TO BEES

Room 225
1:15 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for 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 supports HB 2100, HD2, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii for statewide bee hive research.

Honey bee problems are problems for all of us since many local crops are pollinated by bees. If we are unable to control pests and diseases that harm our honey bees, Hawaii's Agriculture Industry may suffer lower production and quality in tomatoes, melons, and cucumbers as well as coffee, avocado, macadamia nuts, and citrus.

We support UH's efforts to advance their honey bee research activities, and we encourage all them to collaborate their honey bee research efforts between islands and with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

I can be reached at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Erin Conner

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 15, 2012 4:10 PM
To: EDU Testimony
Cc: glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2100 on 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for EDU/AGL 3/19/2012 1:15:00 PM HB2100

Conference room: 225
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Glenn Martinez
Organization: Individual
E-mail: glennmartinez@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/15/2012

Comments:
Hawaii Farmer Union United SUPPORTS any effort to save the bee industry.