

HB2244 HD1

Testimony



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

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March 20, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2244, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL INSPECTORS

Room 224
3:30 PM

Chair Nishihara, Chair Espero, 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 strongly supports HB 2244, HD1 establishing compliance agreements with the federal government and other states for inspections at the state of origin.

This is a timely and appropriate measure in light of the threat of invasive species and the limited resources facing the Department of Agriculture. The training and inspection of Christmas trees in the state of origin dramatically reduced invasive species introduction into the State. As inspections were forgone, invasive species returned even to the scope of the yellow jacket wasps in a container load of trees a few years ago. Recently, our inspectors went back and the incidence of invasives dropped again. This demonstrates that inspection at the state of origin makes sense. Expansion to address our high risk imports is in the interest of the State.

We respectfully request your support of this measure. Thank you.



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

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nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2244 HD1 Relating to Agriculture Inspectors
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations, and Military Affairs
Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 3:30PM, Rm. 224

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. 2244 HD1 and its purpose to allow the State Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to enter into compliance agreements with other state and federal agriculture agencies to monitor production, treatment, packing, and inspection of commodities in their state of origin before being shipped to Hawai'i. We defer to the HDOA as whether its current authorities related to such compliance agreements are sufficient, and whether this measure would enhance their ability to protect Hawai'i from new pest introductions.

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. Enhancing the Department of Agriculture's ability to have cargo assessed, and possibly treated, for invasive pests before it ever leaves an out-of-state point of origin will be helpful in preventing new pest arrivals in Hawai'i.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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To: AGL Testimony
Cc: hooluanaranch@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HB2244 on 3/20/2012 3:30:00 PM

Testimony for AGL/PGM 3/20/2012 3:30:00 PM HB2244

Conference room: 224
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Luana Beck
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hooluanaranch@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2012

Comments: