

TESTIMONY

SB2019

HTH Committee Hearing 1/27/2012

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. Box 3378
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96801-3378

In reply, please refer to:
File:

LATE

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SB 2019, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

Testimony of Loretta J. Fuddy, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

January 27, 2012
2:45 p.m.

1 **Department's Position:** The department supports the intent of this measure but due to current
2 uncertainties with the State's overall fiscal projections, we offer comments and recommendations.

3 **Fiscal Implications:** We support the intent of this measure provided it does not reduce or replace
4 budget requests already submitted in the department's supplemental budget. This bill would quadruple
5 the existing budget for the Vector Control Program.

6 **Purpose and Justification:** The overall concept of this bill is consistent with our Department's goals
7 and objectives, but however an appropriation of \$2.8 million to restore the Vector Control Branch at the
8 2007-2008 fiscal year funding level is above the approved general fund allocation. Currently the Vector
9 Control Branch consists of 17 statewide funded positions, of which 13 are currently filled. Vacancies
10 have not been filled due to the on-going reorganization and merger of Vector Control, Sanitation and
11 Food and Drug Branches. The current total budget for Vector Control is approximately \$700,000 and
12 represents approximately 25% of the 2007-2008 funding level. At this level our response capabilities
13 are limited to telephone consultations in which general information and possible mitigation strategies are

1 provided to the caller; active treatment of state-owned properties and some private properties that are
2 severely infested; and limited surveillance of mosquitoes around the airports. If resources are provided
3 to partially restore our Vector Program, we would advocate funding the activities in the following order:

4 The department would implement a comprehensive statewide surveillance system around all
5 major airports and harbors. An active surveillance system is the first defense against the spread of new
6 vectors and invasive species beyond the port of entry.

7 Once detected, the infestation area would be aggressively treated to eradicate the new vector and
8 additional surveillance traps can be set up to monitor and ensure eradication.

9 The staff would proactively treat hotspots; areas that are known to be breeding grounds for
10 mosquitoes, rodents, flies and other vectors, and reduce their numbers to a more manageable level.

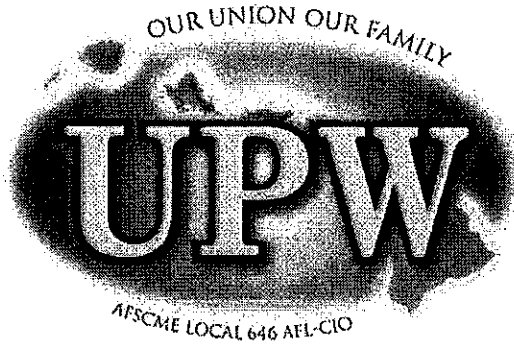
11 Community outreach would be increased through education to the public at community fairs,
12 public schools and other organized events, regarding the different vectors in Hawaii and providing
13 recommendations to the consumer to treat the problem.

14 Finally, the program's ability to respond to public complaints and requests for service would be
15 restored. However, without full restoration of the program and staff, Vector Control will not be able to
16 conduct a physical inspection on every complaint and will continue to advise complainants to seek
17 assistance from private pest control operators.

18 These priorities are listed in order of their effectiveness in protecting public health and safety.

19 Again we would welcome the increase of resources but not at the expense of the department's
20 proposed supplement budget.

21 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



THE HAWAII STATE SENATE
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session of 2012

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & LABOR
The Honorable Josh Green M.D., Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE OF HEARING: Friday, January 27, 2012
TIME OF HEARING: 2:45 p.m.
PLACE OF HEARING: Conference Room 229

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2019 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VECTOR
CONTROL BRANCH**

By DAYTON M. NAKANELUA,
State Director of the United Public Workers,
AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO ("UPW")

My name is Dayton M. Nakanelua and I am the State Director of the United Public Workers, AFSCME, Local 646, AFL-CIO (UPW). The UPW is the exclusive representative for approximately 11,000 public employees, which include blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 01 and institutional, health and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties. The UPW also represents about 1,500 members of the private sector.

The UPW strongly supports Senate Bill 2019, which appropriates funds out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii to vector control, a branch of the Department of Health. The appropriation would restore funding levels to its fiscal year 2007-2008. This measure is critical to the health and welfare of Hawaii and its people.

Vector control is a statewide regulatory program, mandated by law to prevent the occurrence and transmission of vector born diseases and health related injuries to the general public and visitors to the State of Hawaii. Rabies, plague, malaria, yellow fever, and dengue fever are examples of the types of diseases that vector control branch help to prevent. If an outbreak should occur and the vector branch does not have the proper funding, staffing and

resources needed to contain and eradicate the situation, it would be fatal. Not only lives would be put at risk, but also our fragile economy if visitors were to be victims of the outbreak.

We strongly encourage this committee to pass out Senate Bill 2019. We cannot afford not to do this.

Thank you for opportunity to testify on this measure.

**LATE
TESTIMONY**

SB2019

HTH Committee Hearing 1/27/2012

green1 - George

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2012 4:53 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: vm_chong@hotmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2019 on 1/27/2012 2:45:00 PM
Attachments: SB2019.docx

Testimony for HTH 1/27/2012 2:45:00 PM SB2019

LATE

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Vanessa Chong Kuna
Organization: Individual
E-mail: vm_chong@hotmail.com
Submitted on: 1/26/2012

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2019 to restore the vector control branch of the Department of Health. Fecal matter from the large population of feral cats at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) is dragged into classrooms and offices, especially at Moore Hall. This has resulted in a dreadfully smelly, unsanitary, and unpleasant learning and working environment that poses a health risk. Furthermore, students often sit on the dirty floors in the hallways of Moore Hall (dirty with feral cat feces), and eventually attend classes, eat in an on-campus cafeteria, visit the libraries, return to their dorm rooms, catch The Bus, drive their cars, go to restaurants off-campus, return to their homes if they don't live on campus, etc., spreading this filth all over the community. This has been an on-going problem for several years and is now intolerable.



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

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LATE

JANUARY 27, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SEANTE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 2019
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

Room 229
2:45 PM

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

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 SB 2019, which seeks to restore funding for an essential branch of government, the Vector Control Branch.

The Vector Control Branch serves a critical public health purpose that no other entity, private or public, addresses. The mission is to prevent vector borne disease transmission and outbreaks, especially those spread by rodents and mosquitoes.

Our understanding is that because of the lack of funding, this Branch is not currently functional. Through no fault of its own, the Branch has become entirely reactive, hoping that no problems will hit the islands, rather than performing its customary proactive role, taking preventative measures before illness and deaths occur.

For example, there is no longer any routine trapping of vectors to screen for diseases. If a rodent carrying plague, rabies, or other communicable, zoonotic disease comes to Hawaii in a container load or on a ship or airline, we may not even be aware of it until the disease hits the human population. At a minimum, surveillance at points of entry to the State must be done.

SB2019

January 26, 2012

LATE

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of SB2019, to restore appropriate funding to the vector control branch of the health department.

I work at the University of Hawaii Manoa campus, and we have been continually plagued by the feral cats that congregate there in large numbers. As a result, their fecal matter gets tracked into the buildings and classrooms. In Moore Hall, where my office is located, this has become a particular problem. Students track it in on their shoes and it gets spread through the hallways and classrooms, creating a smelly and unsanitary environment for all who work and study there.

My co-workers and I have complained numerous times about this, but to no avail. That is why we are appealing to you to please do something about this problem. It poses a health and safety risk to students, faculty and staff at the University of Hawaii Manoa.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at yap@hawaii.edu.

Mahalo,
Allison Yap
Assistant Faculty Specialist
University of Hawaii Study Abroad Center