

SB 2460

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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2012
2:50 PM
ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2460
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Nishihara and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2460. 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 importation 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.





Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
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nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2460 Relating to Agriculture
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 7, 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 S.B. 2460, 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.

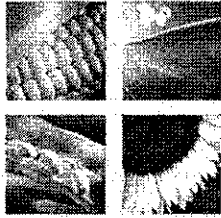
Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. Evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical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

SB 2460 - Relating to Agriculture
The Senate Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 7, 2012
2:50 p.m., Room 229

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Position: Strong Support

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

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 SB 2460 to allow money in the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund to be expended for the electronic importer manifest program.

The agricultural industry and especially the farmers whose commodities require inspection and certification by the HDOA risk their long term economic viability when they cannot get their products to market in a timely manner. For our seed farmers, this includes the importation of seed to the state. We support any effort that enables the Dept. of Agriculture to operate more efficient, effective and productive. We believe SB 2460 is another important tool for the HDOA to achieve their mission and support our agricultural community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
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FEBRUARY 7, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2460
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 229
2:50 PM

Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Kahele, 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 is in strong support of SB 2460, which provides funding to implement the electronic importer manifest program.

Technology has advanced. SB 2460 proposes modern 21st century technologies that allow for more efficient, cost effective, and timely way of doing business. When you return a car to Avis, a person with an electronic device processes 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 of this measure.

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