



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2014
5:00 P.M.
ROOM 308
HOUSE BILL NO. 1932 HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1932 HD1, relating to biosecurity. This bill will appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for fiscal year 2014-2015 for the Department's biosecurity program. HDOA supports this measure.

The biosecurity program fights invasive species by: administering pre-entry measures to minimize the risk of invasive pests entering the State; conducting port of entry inspections to detect and quarantine or destroy pests upon arrival; and administering post-entry measures to mitigate the establishment of pests in the State.

Currently, HDOA has 42 positions that are funded by the Pest Inspection, Quarantine and Eradication fund to run operations for inspections, quarantine, and response to pests such as the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle. This fund is essential for the continued operation of HDOA's Plant Quarantine branch at current capacity and our ability to prevent and respond to invasive pests, including increasing the efficiency of our inspections by upgrading our transporter manifest system. Additional funding for fiscal year 2014-2015 will help ensure that HDOA's efforts to contain invasive species are continued and strengthened.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, February 26, 2014
5:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1932, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

House Bill 1932, House Draft 1 would appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to support biosecurity programs. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The HDOA's port-of-entry and inspection programs within the Plant Quarantine Branch provide critical services in evaluating the large quantity of goods that are imported to Hawaii and in minimizing the risk of invasion by pest species. The HDOA's Plant Pest Control Branch provides necessary expertise and direction in post-entry detection and response for certain pest species. The Plant Pest Control Branch also manages the State's biocontrol program and is responsible for exploring for potential biocontrol agents, conducting research on host-specificity, and releasing appropriate biocontrol agents for invasive species control. The success of these programs is vital to protecting Hawaii's agriculture, as well as its natural environment, economy, the health of the public, and our way of life.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

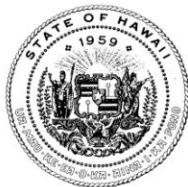
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
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Testimony of
GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
RANDY GRUNE
AUDREY HIDANO
JADINE URASAKI

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 26, 2014
5:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 1932, H.D. 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation **supports** this bill which seeks to provide general funds to the Department of Agriculture to further assist their infrastructure and facility requirements to bolster our biosecurity and help prevent the introduction of new invasive species at Hawaii's airports and harbors that might be harmful to Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



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February 26, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1932, HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 308
5:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, Vice Chair Johanson, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,832 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.

HFB is in strong supports of HB 1932, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for their biosecurity program.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, brown tree snake, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self sufficiency and sustainability.

Funding the HDOA's biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide necessary resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawaii and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawaii.

Please support of HB 1932, HD1.

Thank you.



Wednesday, February 26, 2014

Relating To House Bill 1932, House Draft 1
Testifying in Support

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chairs Johanson and Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports HB1932 HD1 Relating to Biosecurity**, which would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program for the 2014 fiscal year.

The Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program combats the spread of invasive species by inspection and quarantine measures as points of entry into the state, or destroys invasive species as they are found upon their arrival. These measures are the first line of defense against the introduction of invasive species into the state, as well as an essential instrument for preventing their spread to new areas across the state.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
The Legislation Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1932 HD1 Relating to Biosecurity
House Committee on Finance
Wednesday, February 26, 2014, 5:00 PM, Room 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 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. 1932 HD1 and its proposed funding for the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) Biosecurity 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. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. Indeed, the colonization rate of introduced insects and mites in Hawai'i has been estimated at 500 times the rate of the continental United States.

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 in an effort to enhance invasive species prevention at air and sea ports with more inspectors, enhanced inspection systems and technologies, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols.

However, we also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for the Biosecurity Program will be additive and not prevent the Legislature, the Administration and partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to the full range of pest issues across the islands. The task of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is to provide a comprehensive, statewide approach to invasive species including prevention, early detection, control, research and education programs. This effort necessarily results in prioritization based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic harm, and the threat to the health and function of the environment.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that this Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address the full range of invasive species priorities across the state.

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HB1932

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 26, 2014 17:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teya Penniman	Maui Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: The Hawaii Department of Agriculture is our first line of defense against invasive species. Funding for HDOA has never been adequate and we continue to pay the price through the constant introduction and spread of harmful species across our state. Thank you for considering this important measure.

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HB1932

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANTHONY TONY AUSTIN	ENVIRONMENTAL CAUCUS OF DPH	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1932

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANTHONY TONY AUSTIN	YnotAustin Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

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HB1932

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ANTHONY TONY AUSTIN	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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