



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THURSDAY JANUARY 30, 2014
9:20 A.M.
ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1932
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1932, 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, but offers one amendment. Under Section 150A-54, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the Pest Inspection, Quarantine and Eradication fund is the mechanism by which the biosecurity program is funded, and as such we believe Section 3 of the bill is unnecessary.

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. 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
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, January 30, 2014
9:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1932
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

House Bill 1932 proposes to 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.

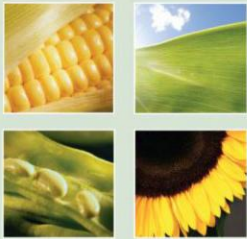
The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

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

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
HB 1932 – Relating to Biosecurity
The House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, January 30, 2014
9:20 a.m., Room 312

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Position: Support

Aloha Chair Wooley, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the Committee:

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association, a nonprofit trade association representing Hawaii seed farmers and a proud member of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers Alliance. We support HB 1932 which appropriates funds for the Dept. of Agriculture's (DOA) biosecurity program.

More than any other issue facing the state, we have the opportunity to validate the old adage - "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." An investment in the DOA's biosecurity program will help prevent the spread of invasive species across our islands thereby saving the state additional millions in eradication. As we know with the coqui frog and little fire ant, there is no easy solution once an invasive has taken root in Hawaii.

For all the fear-mongering about pesticide use by the seed farmers, its ironic that herbicides and insecticides are often the first tools used to manage and control invasive plants and pests. So while these pesticides serve an important and worthy purpose, it is still more fiscally responsible to invest in prevention through the DOAs program rather than continue to use pesticides after the fact.

HCIA appreciates your consideration and support of HB 1932.

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1932 Relating to Biosecurity
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, January 30, 2014, 9:20 AM, Room 312

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 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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