



NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of  
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.  
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
FINANCE**

**Thursday, February 20, 2014  
11:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2426  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Bill 2426 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for the planning, design, and construction of biosecurity facilities at points of entry. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

As an island state, Hawaii is particularly vulnerable to impacts from invasive species. Enhanced biosecurity at points of entry into the State, as well as airports and harbors used for intrastate travel between islands, remains a priority for minimizing the introduction and establishment of new pest species. The Department supports this measure and suggests that with regard to commodity inspection facilities, an emphasis be placed on the development of facilities that house both state and federal inspectors, to facilitate information sharing and cooperation between agencies.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**NEIL ABERCROMBIE**  
Governor



**SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2014**  
**11:00 A.M.**  
**ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2426**  
**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2426. This bill will provide funds for infrastructure and facilities at Hawaii's airports and harbors to bolster our biosecurity and prevent the introduction of new invasive species to Hawaii. The Department of Agriculture (DOA) supports this measure.

Regulation of the movement of commodities through our airports and harbors to monitor for invasive species is a vast responsibility that requires the coordination of various departments including, but not limited to: the Department of Transportation (DOT), the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), the Department of Health (DOH), and federal partners such as the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. Ports of entry and exit such as our airports and harbors are in dire need of state of the art facilities that can serve as central points where all of these agencies can collaborate and consolidate their efforts.

Currently, a multi-agency response is being coordinated through the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. Called Mamalu Poepoe, this initiative is pooling the expertise and resources of DOT, DLNR, DOH, and DOA to increase screening at our airports and



ports to stop the spread of invasive species before they can be established in our islands. DOT has already committed \$300,000 to this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**FIN-Jo**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 19, 2014 9:31 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** misc@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2426 on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM

**HB2426**

Submitted on: 2/19/2014

Testimony for FIN on Feb 20, 2014 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: The Maui Invasive Species Committee strongly supports this measure. The Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP) building on Maui helped set a statewide standard when it opened in December 2007. Unfortunately, even though Maui is not the busiest port in the state, no other island has a comparable facility. The HDOA has worked hard to investigate the potential for shared facilities to increase efficiencies and keep costs down. It is not only time, it is beyond time to make better facilities a reality on each of the islands to help stop the continued spread of invasive species. Thank you for your consideration.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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## AIRLINES COMMITTEE OF HAWAII



Honolulu International Airport  
300 Rodgers Blvd., #62  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819-1832  
Phone (808) 838-0011  
Fax (808) 838-0231

February 20, 2014

Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Honorable Scott Nishimoto and Aaron Johanson, Vice Chairs  
House Committee on Finance

**Re: HB 2426 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY – SUPPORT THE INTENT**  
Conference Room 308 – 11:00 AM

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

The Airlines Committee of Hawaii\* (ACH), which is made up of 21 signatory air carriers that underwrite the State Airport System appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony supporting the intent of HB 2426.

This measure appropriates funds for the planning, design and construction of biosecurity facilities at harbors and airports throughout the state. Biosecurity is fundamental to the protection of the economy, environment, and health of our community, and the ACH supports policy and standards that seek to minimize the impact of pests and invasive plants and animals.

As questions have been raised regarding the biosecurity facilities at airports, the ACH would appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Blaine Miyasato  
ACH Co-chair

Matthew Shelby  
ACH Co-chair

*\*ACH members are Air Canada, Air New Zealand, Air Pacific, Alaska Airlines, All Nippon Airways, Aloha Air Cargo, American Airlines, China Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Federal Express, go!, Hawaiian Airlines, Island Air, Japan Airlines, Korean Air, Philippine Airlines, Qantas Airways, United Airlines, United Parcel Service, US Airways, and Westjet.*



## The International Air Cargo Association

General Secretariat: P.O. Box 661510, Miami, FL 33266-1510 USA  
Tel: (1) (786) 265-7011 Facsimile: (1) (786) 265-7012  
Web: [www.tiaca.org](http://www.tiaca.org) E-mail: [secgen@tiaca.org](mailto:secgen@tiaca.org)

February 19, 2014

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee  
State of Hawaii, House of Representatives  
February 20, 2014, 11 am Conference Room 308

Many thanks for allowing The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA) to comment on HB2426.

TIACA is an Association which promotes the goal of common practices across the full spectrum of the air cargo industry, from shippers and consignees, to freight forwarders, and airports/airlines. Our members understand the need for improved biosecurity in order to protect the Hawaiian ecosystem but there is concern how issues such as data integrity and cost controls are being considered before moving forward.

TIACA endorses the concept of improved biosecurity for the State of Hawaii. A collaborative public/private plan that best coordinates technology, labor and facility infrastructure is needed for an ideal solution. Much as the collaborative effort between TSA and industry developed an effective solution for air cargo security.

Thank you for your time and consideration of delaying final passage until analysis of such a solution is reviewed.

Sincerely,

Douglas Brittin  
Secretary General



February 19, 2014 – 9:35am revised

**Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee**  
**State of Hawaii, House of Representatives**  
**February 20, 2014, 11am Hearing Conference Room 308**

Aloha and Thank You for allowing Commodity Forwarders Inc. (CFI) to comment on HB2426.

Grower and logistic companies understand the need for improved biosecurity in order to protect the Hawaiian ecosystem, maintain local produce quality while at the same time creating jobs through improved crop acceptance in overseas markets. CFI also works with importers of agricultural goods that bring produce into the state to satisfy consumer demand. There is a fine line between biosecurity, data integrity and consumer cost controls that should be considered before moving forward. Hawaii is not just a place to do business for Commodity Forwarders, it's our home since 1981 as we employ over 60 families helping us invest in the commercial infrastructure of Hawaii to handle perishable goods.

CFI endorses the concept of improved biosecurity for the State of Hawaii but feels a collaborative public/private strategic plan that coordinates IT, manpower and facilities should be in place before additional taxpayer funds are allocated.

Thank you for your time and consideration of delaying final passage until how the money would be spent can be better demonstrated.

Mahalo;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Connell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christopher A. Connell  
President, Commodity Forwarders Inc.  
[Chris@CFI-Hawaii.com](mailto:Chris@CFI-Hawaii.com)

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 2426 Relating to Biosecurity  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 20, 2014, 11:00AM, Room 308

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*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.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2426 and its proposed funding to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for planning, design and construction for biosecurity facilities at harbors and airports.

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. Having properly designed and controlled facilities for consolidation, inspection and, if necessary, treatment of cargo is essential to an effective biosecurity strategy, as well as to the efficient movement of goods into and out of the islands.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for HDOA's Biosecurity Program and proper inspection and quarantine facilities at ports of entry 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. 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 prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research and outreach priorities across the state. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is the appropriate multi-agency venue for this broader effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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NIH Early Independence Award selection committee

January 29, 2013

Page 2



HB2426 – Testimony

FIN – House Committee

February 20, 2014

Submitted by: Scott I. Murray, President – Able Freight Services, Inc.

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

Able Freight Services Inc. has been involved with the State of Hawaii’s Department of Transportation (HDOT) and the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) since 2007 to operate Biosecurity facilities (in general), and to assist with the Biosecurity program to safeguard Hawaii from any invasive species. Able Freight fully supports the intent of HB2426 and supports the Biosecurity program that includes an integrated system of on-port Biosecurity and/or transitional facilities and off-port transitional facilities, pursuant to HRS Chapter 150A-53 (4 & 5). Both Biosecurity and transitional facilities should house proper cold storage for inbound perishable cargo with an inspection area for the HDOA - Quarantine inspectors, treatment equipment, and office space.

It is imperative that the cold chain be maintained with the perishable cargo being either containerized or specially wrapped to prohibit any release of any invasive species and supporting and promoting all FDA required food and safety requirements.

To achieve the Biosecurity goals and objectives, Able Freight requests that the legislature revise HB2426 to amend the Hawaii Revised Statutes §150A-53 to insure that our efforts and resources to assist the HDOA in implementing an efficient and effective Biosecurity program which allows importers to meet the FEDERAL FOOD SAFETY requirements are not impeded now and in the future. In addition, during our sessions with Chairperson Enright, he agrees that transitional facilities shall continue as under past Administrations.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the HRS be amended to read, addition **underlined & bold**:

[§150A-53] General actions to achieve objectives. To achieve the objectives of the biosecurity program, the department shall plan for and, within available legislative appropriations, implement the following:

- (1) Work with government agencies and agricultural commodity exporters of other states and countries to establish pre-entry inspection programs under which inbound cargo into the State is inspected at the ports of departure or other points outside the State;
- (2) Establish, operate, or participate in operating port-of-entry facilities where multiple government agencies may inspect, quarantine, fumigate, disinfect, destroy, or exclude as appropriate, articles that may harbor pests or exclude articles that are prohibited or restricted without a permit, with the goals of:
  - (A) Performing inspections in an efficient, effective, and expeditious manner for the government agencies involved and for cargo owners, carriers, and importers; ~~and~~
  - (B) Providing for the proper and safe storage and handling of cargo, especially agricultural and food commodities, awaiting inspection; and
  - (C) **establishing or participating in private/public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection, with on-port and off-port facilities, such as but not limited to: inspection, transitional, consolidation and deconsolidation, and treatments.**



ABLE Freight Services, Inc. ▪ 3375 Koapaka Street, Suite A175 ▪ Honolulu, HI 96819

(808) 672-2180 office ▪ (808) 356-0564 fax ▪ hnl@ablefreight.com ▪ www.AbleFreight.com

It is not feasible for there to be just ONE Biosecurity Facility at the Honolulu International Airport. At the HDOA's task force meeting on Tuesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of February, 2014 Mr. Scott Enright said "NOTHING has been decided" and "they are about 2 months before making any decisions and also that before a decision is made this task force will be informed". He stated that currently they are debating on having Hawaiian Airlines on one side of the airport(EWA), Pacific Air on the other side (Diamond Head) and a possible third biosecurity facility in the old Northwest building(Center of airport). He does NOT think it will be run by the HDOA but rather a third party.

Able Freight would like verbiage added to this bill and others that are related to the Biosecurity program that would permit an entity such as Able Freight, a freight forwarder, to become a Biosecurity facility on the Honolulu International or as a "Transitional Biosecurity facility" located off the actual airport in Honolulu and on the various Outer-islands. The costs of operating this type of facility is very costly unless the entity's business already encompasses the many facets of the Biosecurity facility for its' daily on-going business dealings. The basis of Able Freight's business already requires that we handle perishable cargo while simultaneously adhering to the principles of a Biosecurity facility and food safety regulations by the FDA and other institutions while maintaining the cold chain and integrity of the perishable products.

In fact, Able Freight's biosecurity and/or transitional facilities will actually **SAVE** the State of Hawaii money while accomplishing the objective of preventing the introduction of invasive species.

Able Freight is here to assist the State of Hawaii and the HDOA with implementing its Biosecurity program. My concern is that even though the bills regarding Biosecurity do not specifically deny Able Freight the opportunity, they do not give us the right. I request an addendum to this HB2426 with this addition; "companies in the transportation sector and freight forwarders that are currently transporting and handling perishable cargo business be allowed to operate a Biosecurity facility on the airport or off the airport as a Biosecurity/transitional and use funds as set aside by the State for this purpose."

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments on this important matter.



**Airforwarders Association**

**Voice of the Global Transportation & Logistics Professional**

February 19, 2014

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee  
State of Hawaii, House of Representatives  
Conference Room 308

Chairperson Luke:

Thank You for allowing US Airforwarders Association (AfA) to comment on HB2426.

The association endorses the concept of biosecurity for the State of Hawaii but feels a more collaborative approach should be taken between the Department of Agriculture, related state agencies and in particular supply chain stakeholder involved in the process before funds are allocated.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Brandon Fried  
Executive Director, Airforwarders Association



OISC

O'AHU INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE

**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Representative Aaron Johanson, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in **support** of HB 2426 Relating to the Biosecurity

Thursday, February 20, 2014 Conference Rm 308

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee supports HB 2426, which would provide support to our airports and harbors for the infrastructure and facilities necessary to prevent the introduction of new invasive species to Hawaii. Funding preventative protections such as the proposed biosecurity facilities is the soundest investment the State can make to protect the economy and its natural resources.

One out of many examples of how biosecurity facilities will aid in preventative costs is the recent introduction of little fire ant to Oahu and Maui. Little fire ant is a highly invasive ant that threatens Hawaii's economy, environment and quality of life. It is an extremely small (1/16th of an inch, or as long as a penny is wide), pale orange ant that has a painful sting, nests on the ground and up in the trees, and is slow moving. This invasive ant species will significantly impact the local agricultural and tourism economy due to its large, super-colony nests, which can rain down on agricultural or green industry workers and unsuspecting tourists from the tree canopies above. Another important impact of little fire ant is that pets, like cats and dogs, may become blind from the ants repeatedly stinging their eyes. Little fire ants were detected on Oahu and Maui in December 2013, brought in on a shipment of hapu'u (native fern) logs from Hawai'i Island.

If there were adequate biosecurity facilities on each island, this incursion most likely would have been prevented. Now, the State may spend \$170 million a year to control this single, tiny species.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Oahu Invasive Species Committee

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



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

February 20, 2014  
11:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 2426**  
**RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation **supports** H.B. 2426 which will 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.

Testimony of  
GLENN M. OKIMOTO  
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

**LATE**