

# **HB1932**

# **Testimony**

Appropriates funds for FY 2014-2015 for the  
department of agriculture's biosecurity program



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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENT  
THURSDAY MARCH 13, 2014  
2:10 P.M.  
ROOM 229  
HOUSE BILL NO. 1932 HD1  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairpersons Nishihara and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

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 to bolster 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 Senate Committees on**  
**AGRICULTURE**  
**and**  
**ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, March 13, 2014**  
**2:10 PM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

House Bill 1932, House Draft 1 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

**JESSE SOUKI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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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**  
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March 13, 2014  
2:10 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 229

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

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Senate Committee(s) on Agriculture & Energy and Environment

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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.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 1932 HD1 Relating to Biosecurity  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Thursday, March 13, 2014, 2:10 PM, Room 229

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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. 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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March 13, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1932, HD1  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Room 229  
2:10 PM

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Kouchi, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committees:

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, 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.

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB1932 on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 11, 2014 4:13:55 PM

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**HB1932**

Submitted on: 3/11/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 13, 2014 14:10PM in Conference Room 229

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Warren Watanabe     | Maui County Farm Bureau | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

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HB1932, HD1 – Testimony AGL/ENE – Senate Committee

March 13, 2014

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

Aloha Chair Nishihara, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Kouchi, Vice Chair Ruderman and Members of the Committees:

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-HD1 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.**





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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-HD1 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.



Thursday, March 13, 2014

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

Aloha Chairs Nishihara and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kouchi and Ruderman, and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Energy and Environment,

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