



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 AGRICULTURE

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

HOUSE BILL NO. 2469  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2469 relating to invasive species. This bill establishes a little fire ant pilot project in the County of Hawaii's Department of Parks and Recreation to address the spread of little fire ants and develop model strategies to eradicate the threat of little fire ants that can be implemented statewide.

Hawaii faces many invasive species threats across the islands, including the little fire ant (LFA). Originally from South America, LFA is considered among the world's most invasive species. LFA are tiny ants, measuring 1/16<sup>th</sup> long and are pale orange in color. LFA can produce painful stings and large red welts and may cause blindness in pets. They can build up very large colonies on the ground, in trees and agricultural areas and nurseries.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) supports the intent of this bill, but would like to mention that much of the work to be done in the pilot project is currently being worked on at the Hawaii Ant Lab. HDOA suggests that the pilot project work closely with the Hawaii Ant Lab to coordinate their efforts.

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 2469  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2469 proposes to appropriate funds to the County of Hawaii Department of Parks and Recreation to establish a pilot project relating to the control of Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

The stinging, invasive Little Fire Ant is a primary threat to Hawaii's environment, agriculture, and economy, as well as to the health and way of life of Hawaii's people. The interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), administratively housed within the Department, has provided key funding support to the Hawaii Ant Lab, which is the State's primary resource for research on invasive ant control. The Hawaii Ant Lab is based in Hilo and has engaged in research on different pesticides, applicator methods, and control strategies for Little Fire Ant. The Department supports funding the County of Hawaii for control work in county parks and suggests coordinating control efforts, research, and strategies with the Hawaii Ant Lab for maximum efficacy.

As a number of bills this session address invasive species issues, the Department suggests that this appropriation be considered in addition to other invasive species bills this session, including those that would provide funds to the HISC for coordinated, interagency direction for invasive species projects across the State. For example, the joint majority package includes a \$5,000,000 proposed appropriation to the HISC, in addition to the \$750,000 already appropriated for Fiscal Year 15, to support a variety of invasive species projects across the State. The Department supports this additional appropriation measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the joint majority package or the Executive Budget request.

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  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI  
Council Member  
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396  
FAX: (808) 961-8912  
EMAIL: [donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us](mailto:donishi@co.hawaii.hi.us)

**HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL**  
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Jessica Wooley, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Wooley and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony strongly supporting House Bill 2469.

Our parks and beaches are important resources for kama'āina and visitors to use and enjoy. But these public spaces are under threat by the little fire ant, which has become established across the entire state.

I have been facilitating meetings with Hawai'i County administrators, Dr. Arnold Hara from the University of Hawai'i-CTAHR and Dr. Cas Vanderwoude from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to develop a pilot program.

This treatment started on January 15 with the treatment of infested areas at our beach parks. Approval of this bill will continue the effectiveness of this program and fund the manpower, equipment and pesticides needed to push back against the infestation.

The Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, by using this treatment program, will be able to control the little fire ant problem on public lands elsewhere in the State.

Please recommend approval of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis Onishi".

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi  
Hawai'i County Council Member

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Commenting on H.B. 2469 Relating Invasive Species  
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 of Hawai'i submits the following comments on H.B. 2469 Relating to Invasive Species. We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to the little fire ant (LFA), especially on Hawai'i island, and we support a strong and coordinated response to address this invasion there and on other islands.

However, we hope that the necessary response to LFA will be additive as opposed to shifting funds away from other important priorities that could prevent the State and its partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to variety of pest issues across the islands. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

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 important coordination, collaboration, and prioritization amongst government agencies and partners based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic and agricultural harm, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge  
Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana  
Duncan MacNaughton Wayne K. Minami A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk H. Monty Richards Chet A. Richardson  
Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith James Wei Eric K. Yeaman

*Chair:* Kenton T. Eldridge *Chair Emeriti:* Samuel A. Cooke (co-founder; chair 1980-1991), Herbert C. Cornuelle (co-founder), Bill D. Mills (1991-1995), Jeffrey N. Watanabe (1995-2004), David C. Cole (2004-2008), Duncan MacNaughton (2008-2011)



# **HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003\*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304  
Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

January 30, 2014

Testimony To: House Committee on Agriculture  
Representative Jessica Wooley, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE  
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 2431 - Relating to the Little Fire Ant  
H.B. 2469 - Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Wooley and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association.

While we support the general intent of this bill, we would employ you to consider the use of the private sector. Private pest control operators are trained every month on ant control, their biology and the better methods of control. As an example, the little fire ant typically harbors in trees and bushes up as much as six (6) feet high. You cannot use granular baits on this pest and what you use has to be containerized.

We very much feel that the little fire ant is quickly getting out of control just like the coqui frog.

HPCA attempted to help out on the coqui frog problem only to have the Department of

Agriculture give sprayer units to homeowners so they could utilize citric acid. As a result, because they could do it that way, they stopped hiring pest control operators. You know the result of the coqui frog infestation. We do not want to see the same thing happen with the little fire ant and have them infest papaya's and bananas, etc. and then not be able to distribute them.

Again, we are not opposed to an appropriation but we think the appropriation needs to be channeled to the private industry who control ants on a daily basis and controls for the little fire ant are all together, not that much different. The need for a pilot project is questionable.

Based on the above, we support additional resources for the little fire ant control however, we think they should be channeled in a more appropriate manner.

Thank you.

**onishi2-Micah-Seth**

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 28, 2014 10:48 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** lynhowe1946@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2469 on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM

**HB2469**

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for AGR on Jan 30, 2014 09:20AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: we have LFA, we farm and we suffer daily. the cost to treat is outrageous but we pay it and still the ant marches forward. How can we continue to live on our land, in Hawaii when the state continues to treat invasive species with such amazing lack of interest. Do you not realize what is happening, property values where this ant is so prevalent are crashing, tourists do not want to spend time on Hilo's beaches. You must help to control this species. Many neighbors don't want to deal with it as it is too hard, too time consuming too expensive we must deal with these attitudes and make treatment mandatory and have the state help pay the costs, they did not stop it when it arrived - it is up to them now.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email [webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov)