

SB2458

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 ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT AND
AGRICULTURE**

**THURSDAY FEBRUARY 6, 2014
3:30 P.M.
ROOM 225**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2458
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2458, 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**

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
&
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, February 6, 2014
3:30 PM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2458
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Senate Bill 2458 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

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: misc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2458 on Feb 6, 2014 15:30PM
Date: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:41:26 PM

SB2458

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Feb 6, 2014 15:30PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teya Penniman	Maui Invasive Species Committee	Support	Yes

Comments: The Hawaii Department of Agriculture needs increased staffing, facilities and operational funds to enhance the State's ability to address the threat of invasive species. This bill is a step in the right direction.

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Thursday, February 6, 2014

Relating To Senate Bill 2458
Testifying in Support

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

The Democratic Party of Hawaii **supports SB2458 Relating to Biosecurity**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program for the 2014 fiscal year.

Hawaii is uniquely situated in the world and has an equally unique ecosystem. Our special place is being threatened by the unchecked spread of invasive species. Invasive plants and animals can cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported agricultural crops. Indeed, we're already seeing some of these consequences.

Despite the State's ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly at risk from new or previously undetected invasive species and there are many, such as the coqui frog, *Salvinia molesta*, *Miconia calvescens*, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little fire ant that are already doing considerable damage to Hawaii's delicate balance of ecosystems.

The Department of Agriculture has created the biosecurity program to fight invasive species on several fronts and the Democratic Party of Hawaii believes this program needs to be funded so it can do so.

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

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2458 Relating to Biosecurity
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 6, 2014, 3:30PM, Room 225

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 S.B. 2458 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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SB2458 – Comments

February 4, 2014

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

As a member of the Biosecurity Inspection Facility task force, we fully support the Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity Program. We agree that prevention through good inspections at Hawaii's ports-of entry is the most efficient and effective way to prevent invasive species from entering the State.

We have been working on inspection facilities with Plant-Quarantine since 2007. And although the first concept was to have a single facility, the **concept changed** during the planning process **to a main facility with satellite inspection and transitional facilities.** This is documented:

- ▶ Honolulu International Airport Hawaii Department of Agriculture Joint Agencies Air Cargo Inspection Study (January 2009)
- ▶ Honolulu International Airport Master Plan Update (November 2010)
- ▶ Biosecurity and Agriculture Facilities: Initial Concept Development (December 2011)

Transitional inspection facilities were part of the Biosecurity strategy from the beginning of the program in 2007, and the concept was fully endorsed by the Agriculture Chairperson and the Governor's office at that time and therefore should **not be exclusive to a single entity facility.**

Since 2012, without our knowledge, the Department of Transportation – Airports Division and the Department of Agriculture have decided to go against previous understandings with the transportation sector and their own administrative decisions. Their new vision is for a **single biosecurity facility** which we feel would create a **monopoly**. It would also increase costs to the people of Hawaii in food and other perishables by at least 10 percent. We also feel it would require additional Plant-Quarantine manpower positions of up to 180.

We are in support of SB2458, but unfortunately, we still have serious concerns with the administrative decisions made by the Department of Agriculture. **We are requesting for the Legislature to intervene by providing statutory authority for the implementation of a main biosecurity facility with satellite inspection facilities at the ports and transitional inspection facilities on or off the ports.**

Further, we are also concerned that the information of the import manifest and data from it be kept confidential to only the Plant-Quarantine sector and respectfully request that language be inserted into this measure to include **"secure information that is provided to Plant-Quarantine for the purpose of inspection will be kept confidential."**

SB2458 Support

The legislature finds that the unchecked spread of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Invasive pests can cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

Despite our ongoing efforts to detect and eradicate invasive species, our fragile island ecosystems are constantly at risk from insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other invasive pests. The coqui frog, *Salvinia molesta*, *Miconia calvescens*, ohia rust, nettle caterpillar, and little fire ant are all present in Hawaii, disrupting the delicate balance of our ecosystems, crowding out native species, and reducing the biodiversity of our islands.

The department of agriculture has created a biosecurity program to fight invasive species on several fronts.

My name is Anthony Tony Austin as I support this Bill.