

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 Committee on**  
**WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, February 26, 2014**  
**10:30 AM**  
**State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of**  
**SENATE BILL 2920, SENATE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

**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



Senate Bill 2920, Senate Draft 1 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 in order to facilitate information sharing.

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. The Department supports this additional appropriation measure, provided that this appropriation does not replace or adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

**WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2014  
10:30 A.M.  
ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2920 SD1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Ige and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2920 SD1 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.



William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Clayton S. Honma  
Director

Robert A. Fitzgerald  
Deputy Director

## County of Hawai'i

### DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

101 Pauahi Street, Suite 6 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
(808) 961-8311 • Fax (808) 961-8411

February 24, 2014

Honorable Sen. David Y. Ige  
Chair, Senate Ways and Means Committee  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: **Support for SB2920 SD1**

Dear Sen. Ige,

Mahalo for allowing the County of Hawai'i Department of Parks and Recreation to testify in full support of SB2920 SD1, which appropriates funding to establish a pilot program to combat the fire ant's threat to Hawai'i.

Fire ants are an invasive species that's spreading to more public parks, triggering an increased number of complaints from both residents and visitors alike. Parks maintenance employees have been bitten so badly that they were unable to continue working due to intense and painful swelling. Bites from fire ants have caused blindness in animals.

In an effort to address this growing environmental threat, the Department of Parks and Recreation has been working closely with University of Hawaii professor Cas Vanderwoude of the Hawai'i Ant Lab to establish an abatement strategy and protocol. This resulted in the first public treatment effort, which occurred in mid-January at Richardson Ocean Park in Hilo. Dr. Vanderwoude and his team are still reviewing data collected following that first application and are expected to have the results soon. This information will shape future treatment methods and locales, including the next application tentatively set for early March at the same park.

The Department of Parks and Recreation needs the State's help to expand this program islandwide and keep ant colonies from becoming established in other communities. Passage of SB2920 SD1 will allow the Department to hire a fulltime, three-person team, purchase two blowers, cover transportation costs and buy sufficient bait. We humbly ask for your support for this bill as it will fund a pilot project to combat this invasive species.

If you have questions, I can be reached at (808) 961-8311.

Sincerely,

Clayton S. Honma  
Director

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [misc@hawaii.edu](mailto:misc@hawaii.edu)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2920 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 8:52:39 AM

---

**SB2920**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

| <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 (MISC) supports this important measure. A companion bill HB 2469 was heard and passed by the House Agriculture Committee after amendments to broaden the scope of the proposed Act to add work on outreach and a pilot project on little fire ant detection by canine teams. MISC supports amending the Senate bill to conform to HB 2469 HD1. 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.

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

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

February 24, 2014

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair  
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Senator Ige and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony strongly supporting Senate Bill 2920.

I respectfully request that you amend Section 4 of this bill to replace the "grant-in-aid" with a straight appropriation to the County of Hawai'i, Department of Parks and Recreation.

Our parks and beaches are important resources for kama'āina and visitors. But these public spaces are under threat by the little fire ant, which is continuing to spread.

The Hawai'i County Department of Parks and Recreation, working with Dr. Arnold Hara from the University of Hawai'i-CTAHR and Dr. Cas Vanderwoude from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, have started a pilot program to study the effectiveness of different treatment methods and pesticides in infested areas at our beach parks and at the Pana'ewa Rainforest Zoo. Pesticide-laced bait was first applied to a beach park in January and the next treatment is scheduled for early March.

Approval of this bill will support the effectiveness 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". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi  
Hawai'i County Council Member





P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 26, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2920, SD1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 211  
10:30 AM

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 support of SB 2920, SD1** which establishes and appropriates funds for a little fire ant pilot project to research solutions for addressing the little fire ant threat in Hawaii.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree that immediate measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WAM Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [teresamlee.51@gmail.com](mailto:teresamlee.51@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2920 on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 10:48:44 AM



---

**SB2920**

Submitted on: 2/25/2014

Testimony for WAM on Feb 26, 2014 10:30AM in Conference Room 211

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Teresa L. Nakama    | BIFA                | Oppose                    | No                        |

Comments: Please oppose this pilot program, it already has been stated that Big Island has fire ants and a pilot project will not get rid of them, test already has been made and studies can be found on the internet. Do not waste our hard earned taxpayers money for some project that already has been done on the other islands. This makes no sense to waste our funds when they can be put to vital use for our entire State on more important use to serve the entire general population.

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)