

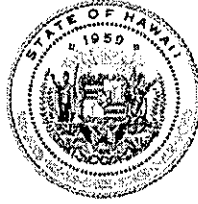
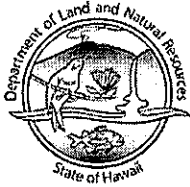
SB 2920

Measure Title: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

Report Title: Little Fire Ants; Pilot Project; Appropriation (\$)

Description: Establishes and appropriates funds for a little fire ant pilot project to research solutions for addressing the little fire ant threat in Hawaii.

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
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

**January 30, 2014
2:50 pm
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2920
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 2920 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 supplemental request.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

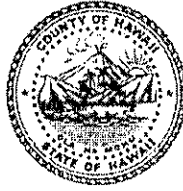
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LAND
STATE PARKS

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
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HAWAII COUNTY COUNCIL
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawaii 96720

January 29, 2014

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair
and Members of the Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Dear Senator Gabbard, Senator Espero and Members of the Joint Committee,

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

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 S.B. 2920 Relating Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Thursday, January 30, 2014, 2:50PM, 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 of Hawai'i submits the following comments on S.B. 2920 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.

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COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell Ruderman, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in **support** of SB 2920 Relating to Invasive Species

Thursday January 30, 2014 Conference Rm 225

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee supports SB 2920 which would provide critical funding for a little fire ant pilot project to conduct research on control of this species in Hawaii County parks. Little fire ant has been detected on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and Hawaii Island. This species will significantly harm agriculture, the local economy and native Hawaiian species as well as quality of life.

Hawaii has the advantage of being one of few locations in the world where practical applied research is being conducted to develop new ways of controlling this invasive species. The Hawaii Ant Lab, a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawaii, has made significant strides in developing technologies to control and eradicate this invasive ant. Hawaii county officials should work closely with the Hawaii Ant Lab to create their control trials and efforts for county parks.

Little fire ant will reduce native forest species diversity, potentially impacts endangered seabird and arachnid species such as the Happy faced spider. This tiny ant has extremely painful stings and may cause blindness in animals, including household pets.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Oahu Invasive Species Committee



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2014

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2920
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 225
2:50 PM

Chair Gabbard, Chair Espero, Vice Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Baker, 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 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.

SB2920

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for ENE/PSM on Jan 30, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 225

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



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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January 30, 2014

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 2920 - RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Gabbard, Chair Espero and Members of the Joint Committees:

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.



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January 29, 2014

**Testimony on Senate Bill 2920, Relating to Invasive Species
SUPPORT**

Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Will Espero, Chair
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice Chair
Hearing January 30, 2014 at 2:50pm, Conference Room 225

Aloha Honorable Committee Members,

Pacific Biodiesel Technologies strongly supports SB 2920 which establishes a little fire ant pilot project to address the spread of this pest.

Little fire ant (LFA) is being found in plant materials arriving on Maui at least once per week and represents a huge threat to both native species and to farmers. That rate also tells us that it is likely to have already gotten beyond inspectors and into the field.

Pacific Biodiesel Technologies is currently involved in research trials with farmers for our soil amendment, Aina Mo'® in the control of the invasive apple snail, *Pomacea canaliculata*, that has plagued taro farmers across the state. Our Project Manager has observed positive effects of this soil amendment in dryland fields in reducing the presence of another costly agricultural pest, tropical fire ant (*Solenopsis geminate*). The threat of LFA is a serious concern to the farmers we work with. On Hawaii Island, farmers lose workers due to the presence of LFA, and its powerful sting, which is often unavoidable during harvests of crops such as coffee and other fruits.

Local businesses strongly support and would like to participate in invasive species control efforts in Hawaii; however, as small businesses we are challenged by the lack of funds available for research. It took PBT more than three years to secure funds to implement the lab and field tests essential to determining product efficacy and safety, despite the known benefits and requests from taro growers and members of the invasive species community for assistance in 2006.

SB2920 will provide an opportunity for the Invasive Species Committees, researchers and local businesses to partner in finding environmentally safe means of controlling little fire ants in the state. On Maui, we know this is critically important both to our unique native habitats and to our very important and rapidly growing sector of organic farmers.

We urge you all to support this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Kelly T. King

Kelly King
Vice President
ktk@biodiesel.com

SB2920

Submitted on: 1/28/2014

Testimony for ENE/PSM on Jan 30, 2014 14:50PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: YES!