

LATE TESTIMONY

Marlene Uesugi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 10:46 AM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: masudan002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM*

SCR143

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neal Masuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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.

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Marlene Uesugi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2014 12:30 PM
To: PSMTestimony
Cc: mfox@tnc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR143 on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM

SCR143

Submitted on: 3/25/2014

Testimony for PSM/ENE on Mar 25, 2014 15:45PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments: Hawaii and other States need help from the federal government to protect against the spread of invasive species. The United States Constitution's Commerce Clause (Art I., Sec. 8, Clause 3) and Supremacy Clause (Art VI, Clause 2) set the stage by giving Congress the authority to regulate commerce with other nations and between the states, and confirming that federal law is the supreme law of the land. In the area of plant pest prevention, the federal Plant Protection Act affirms that the Secretary of Agriculture has the ultimate authority over the movement of plant species in interstate and foreign commerce, and specifically preempts states from being more restrictive on the movement of plants and plant products when the Secretary has taken action. (7 USC § 7756) Though not unsympathetic to State concerns, in practical terms federal authorities favor protection of large mainland agricultural needs over the individual needs of small states like Hawaii. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has a large program based in Hawaii, including over 400 Plant Quarantine Officers and Limited Term Inspectors, for airport departure inspections to protect large agriculture on the U.S. mainland from Hawaii's pests. Ironically, most of these pests, like fruit flies, were introduced to the islands. Conversely, Hawaii receives no special protection to prevent new invasive species introductions to the state. Border protection from foreign cargo and passenger baggage at the Port of Honolulu is essentially identical to that at all other international ports in the United States. Preventive actions by federal inspectors are taken based primarily on a short list of reportable and actionable pests for which specific legal authority is deemed to exist, primarily for protection of U.S. mainland agriculture. In practice, this actionable list has little to do with organisms that would affect Hawaii's agriculture or native biota.

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Senate Committee on Public Safety
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
March 25, 2014
3:45pm, Conference Room 225
State Capitol

LATE

Testimony in Support of SCR 143

Aloha Chairs Espero and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Kidani and Ruderman, and members of the respective committees,

My name is Jarrett Keohokalole. I am testifying today **in strong support of SCR 143**. I commend the Senate for taking the initiative to shine light on this important issue. The current regulatory framework that guides importation of plant and animal species does not adequately take into account the damage that is currently being caused across the country by invasive species introductions. Hawai'i in particular suffers as a result of this oversight. Reform must begin at the top. We must take steps to stop the flow of damaging, costly, and dangerous invasive organisms from entering Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jarrett Keohokalole