

Honolulu, Hawaii  
**February 17**, 2016

RE: H.B. No. 1597  
H.D. 1

Honorable Joseph M. Souki  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Twenty-Eighth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2016  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture, to which was referred H.B. No. 1597 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to address the rapid ohia death disease that is devastating the critically important ohia forests in the State, especially on the island of Hawaii, by:

- (1) Requiring the Department of Agriculture to submit a report to the Legislature that includes information about the nature of the rapid ohia death disease, status of plans and strategies to combat the disease, and the funds necessary to eliminate, control, or prevent the disease; and
- (2) Appropriating funds to research preventative and treatment methods and to control and contain damage caused by the disease.

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, University of Hawai'i System, Aha Moku Advisory Committee, two members of the Hawai'i County Council, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, The Nature Conservancy, Hawaii Farm Bureau, PonoHolo Ranch Limited, Carol Kwan Consulting LLC, and numerous individuals supported this measure. The Department of Agriculture submitted comments on this measure.



Your Committee has amended this measure by:

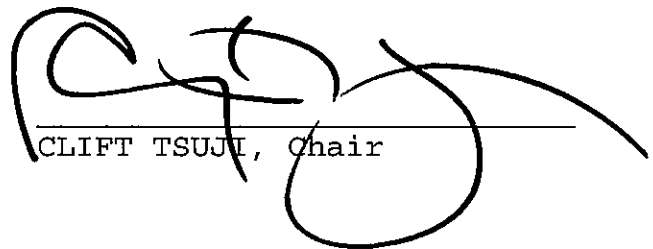
- (1) Deleting the amount of the appropriation; and
- (2) Changing its effective date to January 20, 2050, to encourage further discussion.

Should the Committee on Finance deliberate this measure further, your Committee on Agriculture respectfully requests that it consider appropriating \$200,000 for the preparation of the report and the preventative and treatment research.

To emphasize the urgency in addressing the rapid ohia death disease threat as early as possible and in a meaningful way, a member of your Committee believes that \$300,000 should be appropriated for purposes of this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1597, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1597, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Agriculture,



CLIFT TSUJI, Chair



State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
The Twenty-eighth Legislature

HSCR 306-16

**Record of Votes of the Committee on Agriculture**

<b>Bill/Resolution No.:</b> HB1597	<b>Committee Referral:</b> AGR, FIN	<b>Date:</b> 2/10/16		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
<b>The recommendation is to:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. TSUJI, Clift (C)	/			
2. ONISHI, Richard H.K. (VC)	/			
3. BROWER, Tom	/			
4. CACHOLA, Romy M.				/
5. CHOY, Isaac W.				/
6. DECOITE, Lynn				/
7. ITO, Ken				/
8. KAWAKAMI, Derek S.K.				/
9. KONG, Sam Satoru	/			
10. OHNO, Takashi	/			
11. TOKIOKA, James Kunane				/
12. WOODSON, Justin H.	/			
13. MATSUMOTO, Lauren Kealohilani	/			
14. WARD, Gene	/			
<b>TOTAL (14)</b>	8			6
<b>The recommendation is:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; font-size: 10pt;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
<b>Vice Chair's or designee's signature:</b>				
<b>Distribution:</b> Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				