

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, February 12, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1050
RELATING TO THE INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1050 proposes to require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to undertake a variety of actions intended to minimize the interisland movement of invasive species and to control invasive species on agricultural lands. This measure would also require the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to undertake invasive species management on non-agricultural lands, with a specific focus on areas around Hilo airport and harbor and on creating buffer zones between adjacent conservation and agricultural lands in Hawaii County. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

With regard to directions provided to the HDOA in SECTION 2, the Department recognizes the need for minimizing the interisland movement of invasive species. The Department defers to the HDOA on the fiscal requirements and feasibility of implementing the specific actions described in this section of the measure.

With regard to the directions provided to the HISC in SECTION 3, the Department notes that it is the administrative host of the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which is composed of the directors or designees of the Department, HDOA, Hawaii Department of Transportation, Hawaii Department of Health, Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, and the University of Hawaii. The HISC provides policy and project coordination services across multiple agencies. The Department notes that the HISC does not, in and of itself, have staff that would implement the control activities in this section, but could draft a strategy for meeting the goals described in this section and then solicit proposals from government programs and/or private contractors to implement the strategy.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING 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



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting the intent of H.B. 1050
Relating to Interisland Movement of Invasive Species
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 12 8:30 AM Room 312

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee **supports the intent of HB 1050**, Relating to Interisland Movement of Invasive Species, which directs the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to prioritize interisland pest prevention measures (while preserving domestic inspection); directs the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to work with its grant recipients to prioritize work controlling pests in buffer zones around ports and agriculture production areas; and requires reporting. Below are some comments on the bill.

We do not oppose the idea of buffers between productive agricultural lands and conservation lands for established invasive species, but we believe that working cooperatively with federal grant programs such as USDA's Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program may be a more cost-efficient way to manage invasive species within these buffers. Much of the land that is adjacent to productive agricultural areas is not zoned for conservation and is actually agricultural land or undeveloped state land that has been allowed to revert to forest. All lands surrounding the airport are zoned agricultural or industrial—not conservation. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council does not have field staff that it directs, rather, it works through grant programs. While it is certainly feasible for the HISC to establish an RFP to establish and maintain buffer zones, the funds would be routed through HISC and subject to overhead.

Given the acreage of these buffer zones, it would likely require the entire HISC budget every year to maintain them. The 2012 Baseline Study for Food Self Sufficiency Study for the Big Island identified nearly 40,000 acres where non-animal crops (macadamia nuts, flowers, fruit, coffee, plants, etc.) are currently in production. A link to a map showing this summary is attached and can be found at:

<http://geodata.sdal.hilo.hawaii.edu/techgis/coh/pdf/F7.%20Hawaii%20Island%20Crop%20Summary.pdf>. If we overlay that with the known infestation range of little fire ant, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, and other pests, it becomes clear that there isn't enough funding or staff to really make a difference each year, every year.

We would propose that closer cooperation with the federal government may be able to accomplish the goals set out in this bill. We would suggest that support be given to an appropriate agency to work directly with the USDA Farm Services Agency to establish invasive species buffers as a critical state and county issue, and to dramatically increase enrollment in the CREP and related programs, starting with a single target species, financially viable crop, and concentrated geographic area (e.g. coffee berry borer in S. Kona Coffee). This action will supplement the Hawaii One initiative as outlined in S.B. 512, which is designed to streamline the development of conservation plans for local farms, a requirement to be eligible for federal funds.

While it might take some creative negotiating, designating invasive species buffers as a county and state priority, and working with the federal government to recognize invasive species buffers as a fundable activity, is likely to pay far greater dividends than attempting to suppress a wide range of invasive species over hundreds of thousands of acres. Rather than surrendering land to the steady creep of invasive species, farmers can proactively create buffer areas and place them into conservation easements, getting paid for the investment and any loss of productive land. Considering that only 42,000 acres of Hawai'i Island's one million acres of agricultural land are in crop production (as of 2012), in many areas there is room for the buffers to be placed on the agricultural land. In smaller farm lot areas, the negotiation could involve agreements for farmers to implement these CREP-funded buffers on the undeveloped state or other lands surrounding the production fields. Working cooperatively in this area would ensure that

- The majority of funds and effort are being contributed by federal and private organizations, rather than state general funds.
- Projects are directed at lands with the greatest production value and greatest needs, as identified by the farmers themselves.
- Efforts are maintained by stakeholders who gain steady, ongoing income from the land, rather than by state agencies that face continually changing funding levels and competing priorities, and may be able to create, but not maintain, the buffers in the long run.

The HISC strategic plan and annual prioritization process determines what invasive species priorities will be funded in any given year, but the Invasive Species Committees apply for funds based on the priorities set by their island-based committees. Most ISC priorities are to address early detection and rapid response because it is recognized internationally as the most efficient way to address invasive species once they have arrived. We recognize the frustration of farmers who have taken great pains to rid their lands of established pest only to have these lands constantly re-invaded. This is part of the reason why early detection and rapid response is so crucial; when successful it avoids this endless cycle of re-invasion. Early detection and rapid response is not site-specific, rather, it is species-specific. The ISCs go wherever the pest is, whether it is on residential, conservation, or agricultural lands. As it happens, the ISCs do spend the majority of their time in residential and conservation areas. Although OISC's work is restricted to O'ahu, we would be happy to assist in any way we can to help to bring more federal funds to the state for the purpose of maintaining buffers around agricultural areas. Thank you for the opportunity to work cooperatively on this issue.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

Attachment: UH Hilo Crop Summary for Baseline Study for Food Self-Sufficiency in Hawaii County

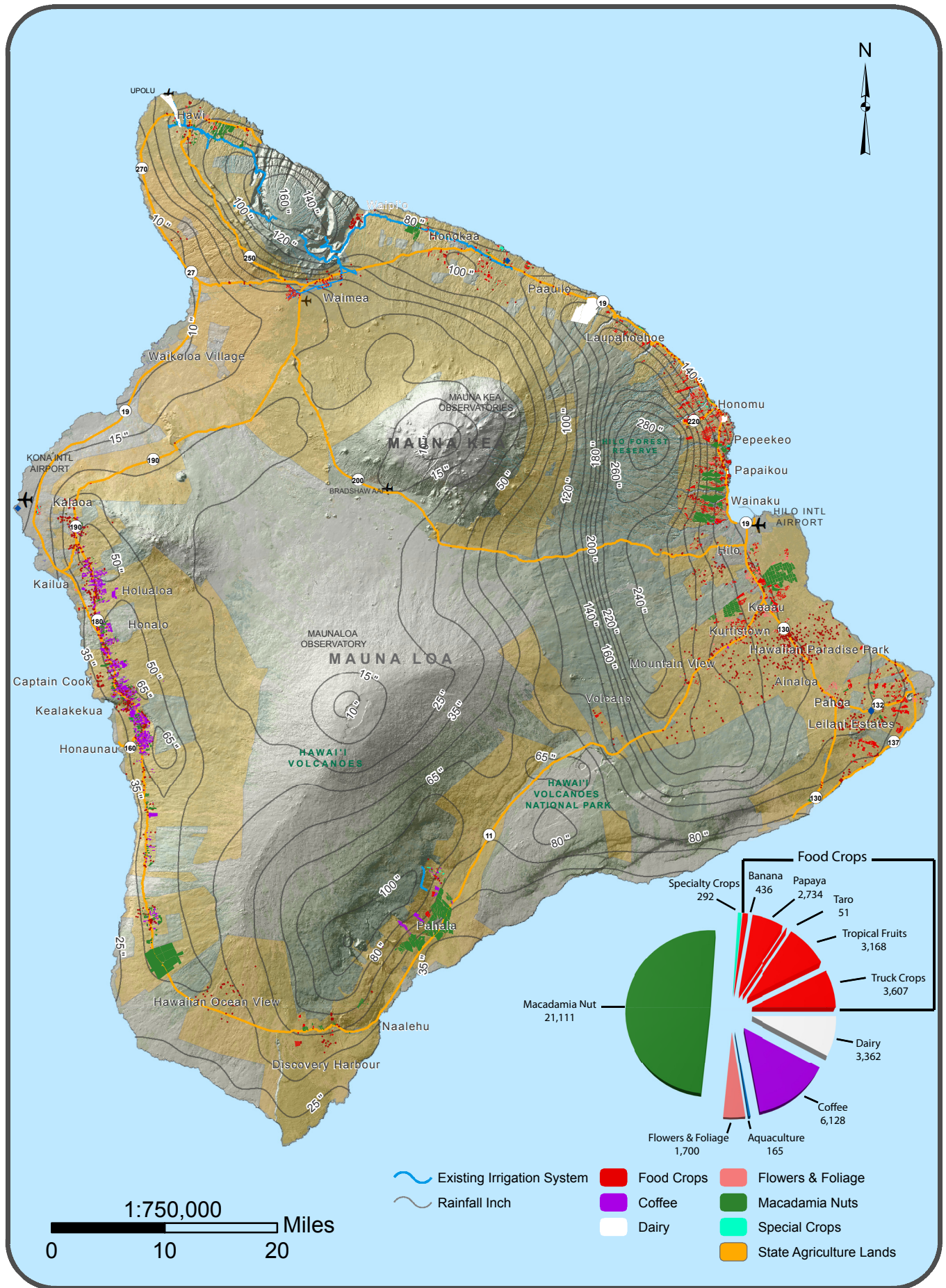


Figure 7. Hawaii Island Crop Summary





23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

To: House Committee on Agriculture and Economic Development and Business
RE: SB1050 Comments Only
Hearing: 2/12/2015 Room 312

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Kawakami, and Vice Chairs Onishi and Kong;

BIISC supports the second section of this bill, related to biosecurity practices, however, we offer the following comments:

1. Section 1 of this bill states that the HISC should direct the invasive species committees to focus their resources on reducing invasive species on conservation lands and residential areas. Although the HISC Strategic Plan identifies budgeting priorities, thereby providing some direction to grant seekers, the independent organizations that apply for HISC funds are not run by the HISC or its staff. The ISCs seek funds from an assortment of state, federal, local, and private organizations each year, are directed by island-based advisory committees.

Through experience, the invasive species committees have learned to apply limited resources efficiently. Early detection and rapid response (ED/RR) is widely recognized as the most cost-effective priority for management once an invasive species has arrived, and that is where the majority of our effort is placed. Early detection and rapid response is not site-specific, rather, it is species-specific. We go wherever the pest is, whether it is on residential, conservation, or agricultural lands. It does happen that the ISCs spend the majority of effort in residential and conservation lands now.

2. Section 2 of this bill proposes improvements to tracking and trace back practices, and greater emphasis on inter-island biosecurity, which we strongly support. In addition, we hope that the HDOA will continue to work closely with federal (e.g. USDA Agricultural Research Service, based in Hilo) and University CTAHR partners to develop quarantine treatments to support a strong export trade. In the absence of quarantine treatments, there are instances when a limited interisland quarantine for a newly arrived species or its host may be warranted.
3. Section 3, Part 1 of this bill proposes reducing infestation levels of invasive species on conservation lands near Hilo Airport/Harbor and on agricultural production areas in Hawaii County.
 - a. We suggest that the wording of this section be amended to clarify which invasive species (e.g. pigs, coqui, little fire ants) or categories of species (e.g. plants, insects, regulated species) are being proposed for control.
 - b. There are alternatives to using state general funds in the Airport area. BIISC was contracted in 2014 by 2 of the 3 major land owners surrounding the Hilo Airport and Harbor, to conduct surveys and/or invasive plant control, at no cost to the state. Approximately 10% of our total field effort was spent in this small geographic area last year and 8% will be this year. Within the airport itself, HDOT has successfully established coqui control as a core airport function, similar to other vermin control responsibilities, and

therefore an activity that can be addressed with federal FAA funds. Pursuit of these federal funds may allow other pests, including LFA to be similarly categorized and addressed.

- c. Reducing infestations of established invasive species on ag lands amounts a permanent and very expensive commitment to subsidize pest control for farmers. The 40,000 acres of active crop production area on the island is roughly 20 times the area on which pests are directly controlled by BIISC each year. A state program will not eliminate these pests from farms, and will not free the farmers from biosecurity inspections or quarantine treatments. Land grant universities and state/federal agricultural programs have long played an important role in solving problems and providing solutions to farmers, however, the in-field work of weed and pest control has traditionally been the responsibility of the farmer.
 - d. Rather than managing widespread pests, most of ISC effort is directed at ED/RR, that is, managing newly arrived, high-risk species, before they become a problem for farms or forests. BIISC ED/RR efforts are supported 2:1 by federal/private to state funds. We often reflect on the challenge of promoting early detection, because if you do the job right, no one knows you have done it at all. The successful dispatch of four axis deer on the Big Island and proposed management of the rose-ringed parakeet on Kauai are examples of early detection work that prevents significant future costs to farmers, and which has a clear end point.
4. Section 3, Part 2 of this bill directs the HISC to create buffer areas between conservation lands and agricultural production areas. We estimate that, based on number of ag parcels, the scale of the buffers proposed in Section 3 may be far greater than current state resources can meet, to create or to maintain. Federal assistance programs, including the USDA CREP and related programs, already exist to meet this goal, and pay long term “rent” to farmers to maintain the conservation buffer zones. Enrollment in Hawaii is very low. A modest investment in 1-2 state positions within the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, or CTAHR, working with federal government to establish these buffers as a state priority, and helping farmers enroll, would be a reasonable and effective alternative.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Springer Kaye, Manager
Big Island Invasive Species Committee



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

February 12, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1050
RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 312
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1050, which mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council perform specified tasks to address the interisland spread of invasive species.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability

Proper funding, focus and accountability of the funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species and DOA is critical for protection of Hawaii's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1050.



The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i Program
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96817

Tel (808) 537-4508
Fax (808) 545-2019
nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1050 Relating to Interisland Movement of Invasive Species
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 12, 2015, 8:30AM, Room 312

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 H.B. 1050 and the provision of funding to improve biosecurity, support pest management for the agriculture industry, and enhance pest control on and around agricultural land. These are clearly top priorities. However, we urge the Legislature to ensure that the funds provided to the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council are additive and not simply taking away from other invasive species priorities or in lieu of providing sufficient base funding for existing HDOA programs.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Alan H. Arizumi Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III
Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III Mark L. Johnson
Dr. Kenneth Y. Kaneshiro Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui Wayne K. Minami
A. Catherine Ngo James C. Polk Chet A. Richardson Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Dustin E. Sellers Dustin M. Shindo Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei Eric K. Yeaman



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Committee on Economic Development & Business
February 12, 2015
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of the Intent of HB 1050

Aloha Chairs Tsuji and Kawakami, Vice Chairs Onishi and Kong, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports the intent of HB 1050, *Relating to Interisland Movement of Invasive Species***, which directs the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture to prioritize interisland pest prevention measures (while preserving domestic inspection); directs the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee to work with its grant recipients to prioritize work controlling pests in buffer zones around ports and agriculture production areas; and requires reporting.

Some of the directives are being implemented. For example, the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture is supporting the work of Dr. Arnold Hara to develop interisland quarantine treatments for commodities, and to work with growers on establishing pest BMPs to control pests at the source. CGAPS also provided an additional 3-year grant for Dr. Hara to expand this BMP training work to the 12 nurseries that most frequently ship interisland.

The idea of better tracking ag producers and commodities is good. With the new Food Safety Modernization Act it will be important to be able to trace at least food commodities (if not nursery plants and cut flowers) through the transportation network to their source. However, implementing this one step is a huge task that would need quite a bit of planning and infrastructure work, and likely additional rulemaking requiring companies that ship the commodities to provide the information.

The HISC Strategic Plan provides direction to grant seekers for specific projects that are in line with the priorities listed in the plan, and there are definitely opportunities to identify key buffers where work can and should be done. However, the 2012 Baseline Study for Food Self Sufficiency Study for the Big Island identified nearly 40,000 acres where non-animal crops (macadamia nuts, flowers, fruit, coffee, plants, etc.) are currently in production (see this PDF for a summary

<http://geodata.sdal.hilo.hawaii.edu/techgis/coh/pdf/F7.%20Hawaii%20Island%20Crop%20Summary.pdf>). If we overlay that with the known infestation range of LFA, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, and other pests, it becomes clear that there isn't enough funding or staff to really make a difference each year, every year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share some of these thoughts and for the opportunity to work together on possible solutions.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 7:22 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1050 on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM

HB1050

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This bill needs to be passed NOW to protect our gates.

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

onishi3 - Timothy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 09, 2015 5:07 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1050 on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM

HB1050

Submitted on: 2/9/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 12, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
penny levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: in strong support.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT AND BUSINESS

February 12, 2015
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1050
RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Tsuji and Kawakami and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill 1050. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to perform specified tasks to address the interisland spread of invasive species. The Department supports the intent of the measure but has some concerns.

The prevention of the introduction of invasive species into the State as well as controlling, mitigating, and eradicating where possible, existing invasive species populations are some of the main responsibilities of the Department. As such, the Department would like to point out that many of the mandates within the bill such as: development of an import database, development of quarantine treatments, carrying out risk assessments, and providing chemicals and equipment to assist growers are all being currently carried out by the Department.

The Department is concerned with language in the bill that stipulates that all information shall be kept confidential to the plant quarantine branch. The Department works best when it collaborates both amongst divisions and branches within the Department and with like-minded organizations outside of the Department to fulfill its various mandates. The Department is very careful to insure that any information that is shared has been thoroughly vetted to prevent the sharing of any potentially confidential business information. However, whenever possible the Department likes to conduct its business with transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.





LATE

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2015
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & BUSINESS

Rep. Derek S.K. Kawakami, Chair

Rep. Sam Satoru Kong, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2015

8:30 A.M.

Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB1050 RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

Chair Tsuji, Chair Kawakami and members of the House Agriculture Committee and the House Economic Development & Business Committee, thank you for allowing us to participate in the development of this bill, regarding the interisland movement of invasive pest species. HFNA **SUPPORTS** HB 1050 and HFNA members are truly concerned about the movement of pests, as these pests can destroy our crops, limit or end our ability to export our products to out-of-state destinations and/or within the state; and increase our cost of doing business.

This bill is refreshing as it provides a workable alternative to the draconian quarantine bill introduced last year, and this year by the Department of Agriculture. I find the bill introduced by the department as a thinly-veiled attempt to reintroduce the same bill as last year, which still targets the agriculture industry without providing much support to combat the problem.

This bill is consistent with the Hawaii Biosecurity Law and utilizes the proven success of the Systems Approach for Nursery Certification. If conducted properly, the risk assessment will allow the Plant Quarantine staff to focus their energies to those commodities that are of high risk. In addition, we do agree that preventing new pests from entering the state should remain the top priority.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

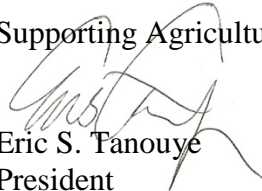
In the past the Plant Quarantine Branch, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (UH CTAHR), and other Agriculture research organizations such as the Daniel K. Inouye Pacific Basin Agriculture Research Center (PBARC) and Hawaii Agriculture Research Center (HARC), have assisted the agricultural industries in developing quarantine treatments and pest management programs for various pests and commodities. This measure provides much needed support for these endeavors.

Many of the farms, especially on the Big Island get re-infested by neighboring properties that are also infested, but are not controlling invasive species on their land. It is a continuing struggle to keep our farms free of invasive species, so we strongly support the creation of buffers.

HFNA supports the legislature's intent to keep the ports clear of invasive pests. We must all do our part to reduce the spread of invasive species.

We request you to seriously consider supporting HB1050. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

LATE

LATE

LATE

TESTIMONY FROM PAUL MAYEDA(NURSERYMAN) WITH BUSINESS LOCATIONS ON
OAHU AND THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

TO BE HEARD BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

SCHEDULED HEARING ON FEBRUARY 12, 2015 8:30am IN HOUSE CONFERENCE
ROOM 312 STATE CAPITOL

HB1050 RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Good morning Chairperson Tsuji and committee members,

My name is Paul Mayeda and I have been a nurseryman since March 1973. I have complied with many rules and laws which allowed my company to ship plants to the continental US and Canada and also interisland. Each destination has its own set of rules that we need to comply with if we are to ship to our customers there. I have a very good reputation for quality in the products that I ship and have had a very clean quarantine record with California and Canada whose regulations are enforced by joint agreements with the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Division. This clean quarantine record comes with a significant financial cost and training of employees. My company Hiromi's Nursery has been fighting with Coqui frogs and now the little fire ant for so long that it seems like an eternity.

I strongly support HB1050. I have fought with Coqui frogs since the mid 90's. I have wrote letters to Governor Linda Lingle and Department of Agriculture Chairperson Sandra Lee Kunimoto asking for help to curtail the spread of the frogs in the Panaewa Forest on November 3, 2004. My nursery shares a ¼ mile common boundary with Department of Land and Natural Resources conservation land in the Panaewa Forest. The Coqui frog infestation was just starting to become very serious at that time and was taking a foothold there. We wanted help to stop the spread but no one physically or financially would step forward. We as the property owners were helpless because we could not enter the conservation lands to stop the spread and consequently became surrounded by

11

21

Coqui frogs. Now we were faced with quarantine regulations and sanctions by the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture and yet our progress to eliminate the frog was wiped out because the frogs would come from the State of Hawaii's conservation lands. This did not seem fair. In April 1, 2014, I testified on another invasive species bill and one of my suggestions is a buffer zone had to be created separating infested lands and lands that were clean or in the process of being treated, otherwise reinfestation would occur overnight. This will also keep your shipping facilities free from invasive species. Think of this as a demilitarized zone, similar to what is between South Korea and North Korea with an adversary that will never give up. For those that feel that this is a waste of time, they maybe don't realize that this buffer zone can also protect the conservation lands because new invasive species will first arrive at the transportation facilities then if not caught there, will move from wherever is the shipment's final destination. This buffer zone created on State lands will help small farmers to fully utilize their production area and monies spent for control of invasive species will not be wasted because of uncontrolled reinfestation.

Thank you for your time for letting me submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive letter 'A' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.