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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
AND WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

March 18, 2016
1:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

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

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard 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 offers comments with 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 needs to point out that there is considerable public interest in information at PQB particularly in regards to permits which often undergo review at public meetings where relevant materials provided by applicants are publically discussed and are public record. In addition, in instances of suspected violations of chapter 150A, such as illegally imported animals, PQB needs to share information in its records with law enforcement agencies on an expedited basis to investigate and enforce violations.

Like other HDOA branches, the Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) routinely screens



requests for public records to identify information that the Uniform Information Practices Act, Chapter 92F, Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS), also known as the State Public Records Law, protects from disclosure and PQB routinely redacts confidential business information and personal privacy information before disclosing public records. PQB follows the written guidance of the State Office of Information Practices (OIP) in determining whether information in public records can be disclosed.

This bill's blanket exemption of all PQB-acquired information from disclosure would preclude public access to information concerning PQB regulatory functions that the public is currently entitled to access under Chapter 92F, HRS. Chapter 92F, HRS, is well constructed and intended to protect both personal privacy rights and confidential business information, as well as the public's right to know what the government is doing. The exemption from disclosure proposed in this bill would compromise the balance that has evolved and existed under chapter 92F for many years.

The Department works best when it collaborates both amongst divisions and branches within the Department and with 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY
and
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, March 18, 2016
1:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1050
RELATING TO 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 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.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKO A KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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

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March 18, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND
TECHNOLOGY
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1050
RELATING TO INTERISLAND MOVEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 414
1:45 PM

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Slom, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committees:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 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 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 and proper focus of the funding for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council 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.

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:00 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1050 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM

HB1050

Submitted on: 3/15/2016

Testimony for EET/WLA on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shyla Moon | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: Supportive of departments working together to stop our invasive pests, especially the coqui frogs and mongoose. Kauai doesn't have these huge problems and we'd like to keep it that way.

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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