

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 26, 2015
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1225
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1225. This bill authorizes and appropriates funds for the Department of Business and Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) to work in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture to perform studies and analysis relating to establishing facilities on the island of Hawaii for quarantine inspection and treatment and handling of incoming and outgoing agricultural commodities. The Department supports this bill provided it does not adversely affect the priorities within the Administration's budget. The Department would also defer to DBEDT.

The Department knows that ports of entry into the State are key in controlling the spread of invasive species both interstate and interisland. The Department is open to partnering with other agencies who would have the economic analysis capability to flesh out the feasibility of an inspection facility on Hawaii Island.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1225 Relating to Agricultural Facilities
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 1:30PM, Room 308

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that 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, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1225 and its proposed funding to the Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) and the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for planning, feasibility and economic assessments for quarantine inspection, treatment, consolidation and deconsolidation facilities for incoming and outgoing cargo on Hawai'i Island.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. Indeed, the colonization rate of introduced insects and mites in Hawai'i has been estimated at 500 times the rate of the continental United States. Hawai'i Island, in particular, has been hard hit with pests like coqui frogs, little fire ants, coffee berry borer, and nettle caterpillars, amongst others. This is especially challenging because of Hawai'i Island's diversified agriculture base that serves statewide, domestic and international customers and markets.

Evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical than eradicating a pest or, even worse, controlling it indefinitely once it becomes established. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Program in an effort to enhance invasive species prevention at air and sea ports with more inspectors, enhanced inspection systems and technologies, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols. Having properly designed and controlled facilities for consolidation, inspection and, if necessary, treatment of cargo is essential to an effective biosecurity strategy, as well as to the efficient movement of goods into and out of the islands.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for HDOA's Biosecurity Program and proper inspection and quarantine facilities at ports of entry will be additive and not prevent the Legislature, the Administration and partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to the full range of pest issues across the islands. Therefore, we respectfully ask that this Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research and outreach priorities across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1225
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES

Room 308
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto 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 1225, authorizing DBEDT to work with HDOA on moving forward with the studies and analysis relating to establishing facilities on the Island of Hawaii for quarantine inspection and treatment and handling of incoming and outgoing agricultural commodities.

Many bills have been introduced this year addressing problems surrounding invasive species. They all address invasives but are not part of a comprehensive effort to manage the core problem. Several years ago the Legislature created the mechanism of a comprehensive plan and significant progress was made in implementing the key measures. We seem to be drifting away from that effort. This measure, however, addresses a key component of the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan and should be given priority by DBEDT along with the Department of Transportation. Last year, SB2347 was heard, requiring treatment of all nursery stock that may contain invasive pests. This sounded like a very logical step, however, if associated programs to reduce pest infestations on lands adjacent to farms, and at ports and harbors along with appropriate treatment facilities are not available, this will be a cost prohibitive program for farmers.

The Big Island has coqui frog, little fire ant and coffee berry borer but also has a huge potential to expand agricultural production. This facility is vital to controlling the spread of harmful and invasive pests as Hawaii Island's production capacity and markets expand. We urge the legislature become familiar with the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan and to support its timely and complete implementation.

We thank you for your strong support of this measure.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

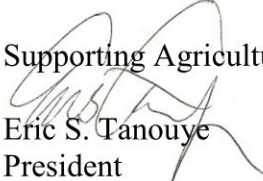
THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26, 2015
1:30 P.M.
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act
HB 1225 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL FACILITIES.

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.

We **Strongly Support** HB1225 Relating to Agricultural Facilities. As Farmers and Nurserymen we take pride in the products we grow and it is important that we be able to have our products reach the consumer in the freshest and fastest path possible. These facilities can help to support agricultural growth. It is important that we have the proper facilities to import and export products in a safe and efficient manner. These facilities, next to harbors and airports, will help contain pests and provide quarantines that will allow us to move our product in a timely manner. The county of Hawaii has agreed with us that these facilities can help multiple agricultural products such as papaya, flowers, and tropical fruits allowing these industries to grow. I ask that you consider the good that these facilities could accomplish on behalf of agriculture for Hawaii.

We as an Industry **Strongly SUPPORT** this bill and ask you to consider the good that this bill can do for all of Hawaii's Agriculture. 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



The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
February 26, 2015
1:30 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1225

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 1225**, *Relating to Agricultural Facilities*, which supports the planning of multi-purpose agriculture inspection facilities at Hilo and Kawaihae Harbor properties.

So many agriculture producers are able to survive and produce local food only through diversification and export of some of their products, whether it be interisland or to external markets. Agriculture consolidation & deconsolidation areas and inspection facilities should be co-housed, and need to be designed for upcoming Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) rules pertaining to the safe transport of food. Your support for the planning and building of such facilities on the Big Island would serve several purposes—support of local agriculture, preparation for FSMA rules, and the reduction of invasive species that can move interisland on agricultural products. Further, invasive species inspection on exported commodities builds support for the marketing of Hawai'i agriculture overseas.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share some of these thoughts, and we respectfully request your support of HB 1225.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS