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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 10, 2016
10:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1597
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

House Bill 1597 proposes to require Department of Agriculture (DOA) to submit a report to the legislature on the status Rapid Ohia Death and appropriates \$200,000 to DOA for research and control/containment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing funding to the Department's programs..**

The recent spread of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) on Hawaii Island threatens the State's most important forest species and requires urgent action. Recent surveys conducted by the Department preliminarily found 34,000 acres of ohia forest affected by this disease, which is more than double the area mapped in 2014. DLNR is working closely with DOA, USDA Forest Service and Agriculture Research Service, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture, and others to understand ROD and mitigate its spread where possible. Due to the lack of knowledge about this disease, many questions need to be answered before effectively managing the outbreak, as well as providing information or suggestions to the public.

This bill designates funding for 1) research for prevention and treatment; and 2) control and containment. We do not currently have treatments available to contain outbreaks in the forest, and funds are needed for researchers to develop such treatments. The Department supports funding research through DOA, but other activities might be more appropriately funded through different agencies. For example, control and containment activities, if research leads to effective techniques, would be more effectively handled by the Department and other land management agencies.

While the appropriation (\$200,000) in this bill is not sufficient to cover the entire scope of planned research and work, it would help sustain efforts already underway by state, federal, and private organizations. Priorities identified by the partner agencies include research, planning, survey/monitoring and coordinated outreach.

Despite a lack of full understanding about this disease, all of the activities mentioned are vital to an effective response; therefore funding needs will be ongoing. The Department will continue to work closely with DOA and other partners to share knowledge and coordinate actions so resources are used efficiently.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Aha Moku Advisory Committee
State of Hawaii
Post Office Box 621
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Piilani Kaawaloa
Aha Moku Advisory Committee – Moku O Keawe (Hawaii)

Before the House Committee on
Agriculture

Thursday, February 10, 2016
10:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

**In Consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1597
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

House Bill 1597 appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State. It requires the Department to submit a report to the legislature and makes appropriations. **The Aha Moku SUPPORTS this measure.**

The Aha Moku encompasses the eight main Hawaiian Islands, which in turn is comprised of 47 moku and 607 ahupua'a, each one of which is individual and unique with its own natural resources. The commonality among all of them is that the ohia tree is unique and sacred to the Hawaiian culture as a whole and with the exception of Kahoolawe and Niihau; the other islands have them where the people have used the ohia in their traditional practices for generations.

The focus of the Aha Moku System, as stated by this Legislature is to assist the State in the protection and sustainability of its distinctive natural and cultural resources by bringing forward Native Hawaiian empirical resource methodology that together with scientific expertise may further protect our natural assets. However, in the case of the ohia, we do not know where the disease came from. We do support every effort to find this out, and find a cure for this as soon as possible.

Today, it is often difficult to protect these resources because of the influx of invasive species which, because they are not native to Hawaii, often causes irreparable harm to our endemic and indigenous flora and fauna. This in turn does great harm to our cultural resources. We believe this measure is greatly needed. On our island, Moku O Keawe (Hawaii), alone, we currently have to deal with the rapid demise of our sacred ohia trees. In time, if a cure is not found, this will eventually spread to all islands. All of this directly impacts our native Hawaiian resource practices. We need to find a way together, to find a cure for this deadly disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony and we urge this committee pass this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
February 10, 2016 at 10:20 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1597 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1597, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State.

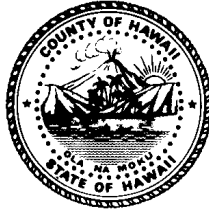
Rapid ohia death, caused by a fungal pathogen first identified in 2014, has spread extremely rapidly on the Big Island, from 15,000 acres of ohia forest infected by the disease in 2014, to 34,000 in 2016. Ohia makes up half the acreage, and half the woody biomass, of all the forests in Hawai'i. Loss of ohia across the state will severely impact our endangered forest birds that depend on the trees for nesting sites, and will intensify invasion of the forest by invasive plant species such as strawberry guava that use more water than ohia, with negative impacts on the watershed. From a cultural standpoint, it is difficult to imagine Hawai'i without ohia and the lehua flowers. Further, forests of dead trees will greatly damage tourism, particularly on the Big Island, and greatly increase fire hazards.

The nursery industry in Hawai'i has also been impacted by rapid ohia death, since it has been necessary to impose a quarantine on soil movement from the Big Island to prevent possible spread of the disease.

Researchers from state and federal agencies and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) are working to address the spread and management of this severe plant disease, but their efforts are limited by resources and by the absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease. HB 1597 would appropriate the funds necessary to increase these research and management efforts before the disease devastates Big Island forests, and spreads across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1597.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 8, 2016

House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair
Representative H. K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Re: Testimony In Support of HB1597; Relating to Environmental Protection
Hearing Date: February 10, 2016 at 10:20 a.m., Conference Room 312

Dear House Committee on Agriculture:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, our support for the above referenced bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

I fully support the appropriation of funds for research and mitigation efforts to address the rapid 'Ōhi'a death. Hawai'i Island has been massively impacted by this disease, and we are in dire need of assistance from the Department of Agriculture to eliminate, control, and prevent rapid 'Ōhi'a death from spreading throughout the State.

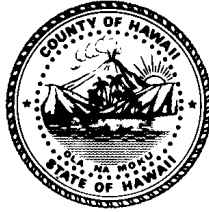
I strongly encourage the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

Maile Medeiros David
Council District 6
Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano



Phone: (808) 323-4277
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

February 9, 2016

Honorable Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair and
Honorable Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: HB 1597 – Relating to Environmental Protection (Rapid 'Ōhi'a Disease)

Honorable Chair Tsuji:

I strongly support HB 1597 and any and all efforts to stop the spread of this deadly disease that is destroying our native 'Ōhi'a forests on Hawai'i island. The effects of this deadly disease are a threat to our state and county's respective sustainability goals and aspirations, and elevates, to the highest degree, our fiduciary obligation and duty to protect and preserve our valuable natural and cultural resources.

While I strongly support HB 1597, I also implore the Department of Agriculture to aggressively determine methods of stopping the spread of this deadly disease before we pass the point of no return and lose our valuable life-giving native forests and watershed. A loss of that magnitude will have devastating impacts to our island communities and result in sustainability and self-sufficiency becoming unattainable, if not impossible.

I strongly urge your favorable consideration of HB 1597. Mahalo a nui loa.

Very truly yours,

Maile David

Maile David, Councilmember
Hawai'i County Council
Council District 6

md/



Conservation Council
for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture
Hearing: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:20 am
Conference Room 312

In Support of HB 1597 Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1597, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State; requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature; and makes appropriation.

However, we urge you to increase the appropriation of \$200,000 to an amount that is needed for research and protection of our watersheds. Surely, our native forests are worth way more than \$200,000.

'Ohi'a lehua is a dominant forest tree in our watersheds and habitat for rare and endangered species. Rapid 'ohi 'a death/wilt is a major threat to our native forests and watersheds, but it is not the only threat. Even if we are able to control or slow ROD, our native forests and watersheds will continue to decline as a result of additional threats, including introduced feral and game mammals (pigs, goats, sheep, and deer), invasive plants (such as strawberry guava, miconia, and others), plant pests, and diseases. Water and watersheds are important.

Please do a better job of protecting our public lands and trust resources for future generations. Provide more funding for watershed protection and invasive species control. Ask your colleagues to stop nickel and diming important land conservation and invasive species programs under the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture.

Please support HB 1597 and appropriate more funding.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
February 10, 2016
10:20 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1597

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of HB 1597, Relating to Environmental Protection.**

As this Committee is aware, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death is a new fungal disease that was recently detected on Hawai‘i island, and it is killing ‘ōhi‘a at an alarming rate. ‘Ōhi‘a is Hawaii's most important and widespread forest tree and is central to watersheds, serves as habitat for many native species, and has tremendous cultural importance. Research shows that once the microscopic fungal disease enters ‘ōhi‘a trees, it can take a few weeks or even months where the tree shows no symptoms, but all at once, the tree dies. It is not yet known all of the ways that the fungal pathogen can be spread, although it can spread through infected soil (in the lab, 40% percent of seedlings succumbed within 6 months of infecting the soil with the disease). The fungal pathogen has also been found in wood from an ‘ōhi‘a tree that had died from the disease a year prior. The pathogen was still alive and capable of spreading with the movement of the wood. There is also some evidence that ‘ōhi‘a roots growing into each other, streams, and even feral cattle can carry and spread the pathogen from tree to tree.

The strain of this pathogen affecting ‘ōhi‘a is new to science--it has not been documented or studied anywhere else. From intensive studies of ‘ōhi‘a trees in the 1980's we can say that this pathogen was not present in ‘ōhi‘a at that time. Therefore, researchers are racing to learn as much as possible about its biology, all of the ways that the pathogen can spread, and to identify and test quarantine methods to detect and kill the pathogen in small amounts of soil (such as potted plants shipped from Big Island nurseries) and ‘ōhi‘a wood to protect neighbor islands from these known pathways for spread. However, at this rate of spread and with the tens of thousands of acres considered infected, there are virtually no options for landscape-scale protection of ‘ōhi‘a trees in natural areas on the Big Island. Faced with this sobering information, researchers are also looking at management actions that can and should be taken to mitigate impacts.

We should note that plant diseases such as these are extremely difficult to successfully address. For example, two well-documented accounts of widespread iconic U.S. tree species being wiped out by plant diseases include the disappearance of American chestnuts from an introduced fungal disease in the early 1900's (nearly 4 billion trees were killed and only a handful of trees remain in the wild, even today), and the 2003 discovery of an introduced beetle

which is spreading a new fungal disease that is killing red bay/laurel in the south eastern U.S. The disease is on track to drive two species of red bay trees in the south eastern U.S. to extinction, and also impact the avocado industry. These tragedies and their impacts are ongoing, and we in Hawai'i need to shift our emergency-response framework and mind-set to the idea that this disease is not going away, and that we must find ways to mitigate the impacts over the long term. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 1597 Relating to Environmental Protection
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 10, 2016, 10:20AM, 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 depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 1597. We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) and the acute circumstances on Hawai'i island with this disease and other pests of the environment, agriculture, and human health and well-being. We support a strong and coordinated response to ROD that is threatening the dominant native tree species in the Hawaiian forest—a tree that is central to the forests' ecological, cultural and watershed values statewide.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death 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. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council—or the proposed Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority ([HB2270/SB2799](#))—is the appropriate multi-agency venue for this broader effort. This approach necessarily results in prioritization based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic harm, and the threat to the health and function of the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB1597
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Room 312
10:20 am

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

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.

HFBF **strongly supports HB1597**, seeking to manage Ohia Wilt.

Watersheds are the lifeblood of our communities. It is important not just to agriculture but to our social and environmental health. The spread of Ohia Wilt has been alarming and its' management before spreading to other islands is very critical. Many of the other islands depend on surface water for their drinking and irrigation needs. Loss of trees will severely impact watersheds.

HFBF **respectfully requests your support** of this important matter.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 9:20 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM*

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	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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P.O. Box 893953
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(808) 381-1342 Fax (808) 625-4287

February 8, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1597

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

I SUPPORT HB 1597 relating to environmental protection for appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the Rapid Ohia Death disease in Hawaii.

Rapid Ohia Death has killed over 100,000 ohia trees and spread to 34,000 acres on Hawaii Island. Ohia comprises over fifty percent of our native forests state wide and is critical to our watersheds and to numerous native fauna, many of which are endangered. This disease has the potential to devastate to our State's economy and environment, as well as adversely impact Native Hawaiian cultural practices. As such, I strongly support funding accelerated research to find a way to stop this disease.

I am a Certified Arborist and a small business owner. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol L Kwan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Kwan" clearly legible.

Carol L Kwan
President and Certified Arborist

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:54 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dforman@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Forman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support funding to protect our Ohia forest.

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February 9, 2016
Testimony in Support of HB1597
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Clift Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi
House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

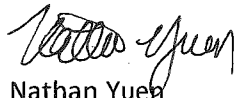
For the past 20 years I have been hiking throughout the Hawaiian Islands to photograph the native flora and fauna which I blog about at my website – HawaiianForest.Com. 'Ōhi'a trees are one of my favorite things to photograph. In 2013 I was appointed to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission:

'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Please appropriate funding to stop this terrible disease.

Sincerely,



Nathan Yuen

09Feb2016
Testimony in Support of HB1597
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Clift Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi
House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 for research and control of Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt.

Last week, my son and I visited the mountain forest of Kokee on his first-grade school trip. At the close of the visit, each student was asked to name one new lesson or discovery from our time there. My son said, "I learned that the forest isn't just trees. It's a habitat, with birds, and insects, and all the big and little plants. The trees have to be healthy so there can be a home for the animals."

Please help us do everything possible to enable the ohia trees of Hawaii Island and the entire state to survive this devastating fungal disease, for all the animals and plants that depend on them for their habitat, and for all our future generations.

Thank you,

Kristen Ma
'Ele'ele, Kaua'i, Hawai'i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:57 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dmille33@kent.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Miller	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: February 9, 2016 Testimony in Support of HB1597 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Clift Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi House Committee on Agriculture Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Donna M. Miller

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:27 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ppetersenjr@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter Petersen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to do whatever it takes to stop this Rapid Ohia Death Disease because when the Ohia dies off so does many birds or other animals that depend on it. When the birds disappear.....they are gone forever!!!

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AGRtestimony

From: selesarke@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:21 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Attn: Cliff Tsuji, I Support HB1597

February 9, 2016
Testimony in Support of HB1597
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Cliff Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi
House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ōhi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ōhi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Suzanne M. Elesarke

February 9, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB1597

Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Clift Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi

House Committee on Agriculture

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

I work in the field of native Hawaiian forest conservation, and can fully vouch for the environmental, and cultural, significance of the 'Ōhi'a tree in the Hawaiian forest.

'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems. Also, 'Ōhi'a is a strong water purifying plant, and undoubtedly plays a tremendous part in the quality of our watersheds.

'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis.

Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Robert S Johnson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Salinasckl@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM*

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 1:44 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jessica.panzer@me.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica middleton	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Jessica Middleton

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Peter J. Lenhart
ATTORNEY AT LAW, LLLC
1088 Bishop Street, Suite 907, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Telephone: (808) 536-7599 • Fax: (808) 536-7515
e-mail: plenhart@aol.com

February 9, 2016

Testimony in Support of HB1597
Relating to Environmental Protection
Chair Cliff Tsuji and Vice Chair Richard H.K. Onishi
House Committee on Agriculture

Re: I, Peter Lenhart, Support HB1597

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ōhi'a Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

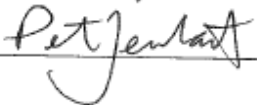
Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of Ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on Ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of Ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Very truly yours,

By 

PETER J. LENHART

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 4:15 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM*

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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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

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 10, 2016
10:20 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1597
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1597. This bill appropriates general funds to 1) research methods to prevent and treat rapid ohia death and 2) control and contain damage caused by rapid ohia death.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is known to have infested at least 35,000 acres on the Big Island and continues to spread throughout that island and has not been found on other islands. It has left a devastating impact to the forests killing 50-90% of the trees in infested areas. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) established a quarantine on August 25, 2015 to prevent its spread from the Big Island to the other islands. This is under our authority which enables us to create an interim rule to govern the transport of flora and fauna into and within the State to protect agriculture and the environment.

ROD is a serious disease of Hawaii's ohia forests and the loss of these trees would have a devastating impact on our forest lands and natural resources. The purpose of this bill is to fund research for the treatment and prevention of ROD and control and contain damage caused by ROD. It is the department's view that it would be more advantageous to have these funds go to the Department of Land and Natural Resources which, unlike HDOA, have the mandate and authorities to carry out the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: kealiiloma@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Louise Keali'iloma King Lanzilotti	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Your name

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 5:41 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1597 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM*

HB1597

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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AGRtestimony

From: florence fines <flfines@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 6:28 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: TESTIMONY RELATING TO HB 1597 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2016

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

ATTEN: CLIFF TSUJI AND VICE CHAIR RICHARD H. K. ONISHI

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1597 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Dear Senators Tsuji and Onishi:

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ōhi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

‘Ōhi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease and ask your kind attention in consideration and support of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/ Florence L. Fines