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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

Thursday, February 11, 2016
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1607
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 1607 proposes to create a coupon program for residents to receive treatments for little fire ant infestations and require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to create maps of infested areas. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any funding the Department has currently allocated for specific programs.**

The Department recognizes the importance of controlling little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) in Hawaii, as this species of ant has had substantial impacts to Hawaii's and across western pacific islands natural resources, agriculture, and way of life. The Department notes that the program described by this measure would provide homeowner assistance that temporarily decreases the presence of ants on private land, however, that it is not a feasible long-term control or eradication strategy.

The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not impact long-term control and eradication projects managed by HDOA or the Hawaii Ant Lab (a project of the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit). The Department defers to HDOA on the details of how to best implement such a program and generate the maps described by this measure.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:00 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

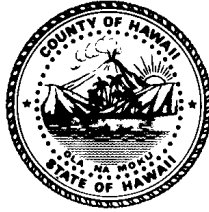
HB 1607 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1607, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project for Hawai'i County, and a site map of little fire ant infestations on the Island of Hawai'i, and appropriates funds for these purposes.

HB 1607 points out the problem of people “left behind” in the wake of an invasive pest moving across the State, and offers a creative approach to assist them, and to collect current information on the distribution of that pest. Involvement of the public in efforts to control invasive species, given the limited resources available to government agencies, is a useful approach, and the pilot project could create a model for management of other persistent invasive species in the state.

We defer to the Department of Agriculture on fiscal and management implications of HB 1607, but we support the intent of the bill involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



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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 HB1607; Relating to Emergency Invasive Special
Hearing Date: February 11, 2016 at 9:00 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 mandating the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and to appropriate funds, to expand the fire ant program that is currently in place. The distribution of coupons for pesticide to individuals who have verified presence of fire ants will allow island residents to effectively combat this invasive species.

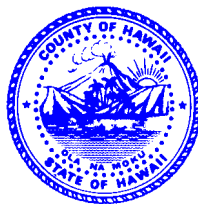
I strongly encourage the passing of this bill.

Sincerely,

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

KE.wpb

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
District 3



PHONE: (808) 961-8396
FAX: (808) 961-8912
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

TESTIMONY IN **STRONG SUPPORT** OF HOUSE BILL NO. 1607

A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Clift Tsuji, Chair
Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Honorable Chair Tsuji,
Vice Chair Onishi,
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of HB 1607**, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant pesticide treatment coupon pilot project and site map; and further, requiring the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on its progress.

The County of Hawai'i has been affected the most by the little fire ant. It is the worst invasive species and it is quickly spreading. It is imperative to establish and appropriate funds to assist the Department of Agriculture to expand its current little fire ant program.

Please recommend approval of this bill. Thank you.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304

Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

February 11, 2016

Testimony To: House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 1607 - Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association.

While we support the general intent of this bill, we would employ you to consider the use of the private sector. Private pest control operators are trained every month on ant control, their biology and the better methods of control. As an example, the little fire ant typically harbors in trees and bushes up as much as six (6) feet high. You cannot use granular baits on this pest and what you use has to be containerized.

The little fire ant is out of control just like the coqui frog. HPCA attempted to help out on the coqui frog problem only to have the Department of Agriculture give sprayer units to homeowners so they could utilize citric acid. As a result, because they could do it that way,

they stopped hiring pest control operators. You know the result of the coqui frog infestation. We do not want to see the same thing happen with the little fire ant and have them continue to infest papaya's and bananas, etc. and then not be able to distribute them.

Again, we are not opposed to an appropriation or a pilot project but we think the coupons should be channeled to the private industry who control ants on a daily basis. The coupons should be redeemable by the consumer to the pest control operator to the funding mechanism.

We would also point out that a one-year supply (Section 2) is not efficient. In some cases one treatment may work while another will require extended treatment over time.

Based on the above, we support additional resources for the little fire ant control however, we think they should be channeled in a more appropriate manner.

Thank you.

February 11, 2016

The Honorable Clift Tsuji, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 312
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1607, Relating to Invasive Species

HEARING: Thursday, February 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

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

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® (“HAR”), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,800 members. HAR **supports the intent** of H.B. 1607 which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map, and requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation.

HAR believes that programs and efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents and visitors who travel to our islands. The spread of invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to the economy, tourism, and real estate industries.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



February 10, 2016

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

Testimony in Support of HB 1607, Relating to Invasive Species (Mandates the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map; Requires the DOA to report to the Legislature on project implementation; Appropriates funds.)

Thursday, February 11, 2016, 9:00 a.m., in Conference Room 312

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers and a utility company. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 1607**.

HB 1607. This bill proposes to require the establishment and implementation of a pilot pesticide treatment coupon project within the DOA's current little fire ant program, and the creation by the DOA of a site map indicating all little fire ant sites in the county of Hawaii. The DOA must also submit a report on its progress in implementing the mandates in this measure to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2017. Funds are to be appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 for the little fire ant pilot project and site map. The purpose of this measure is to establish the pilot project and to provide funds for the development and implementation of additional tools to assist the DOA to expand its current little fire ant program.

LURF's Position. Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, snakes, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, native species and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. Invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist and dry land forests, and the spread of disease, but many more harmful pests, such as the little fire ant, now

threaten to invade all of the Hawaiian Islands and wreak further damage, including damage to Hawaii's native biodiversity, ecosystems, human health, tourism and agricultural productivity.

Despite DOA's initial efforts to control and manage the little fire ant problem, additional steps must be taken to proactively and aggressively eradicate infestations, and new methods must be developed to control the incursions. Appropriated funds for development and implementation of new methods of preventing and treating little fire ants are immediately necessary to mitigate the threats and impacts of uncontrolled spread and potential damage to the State's health and economy.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 1607** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 08, 2016 2:31 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, I urge the committee to investigate Natural Korean Farming techniques to control the LFA and the Rapid Ohia Wilt before resorting to toxic pesticides that may have many unforeseen consequences. See SB 2746. Mahalo,

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:19 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: smithie88@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sara R Silverman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: HB1243 is an underhanded political addition to target defenseless animals. By politically designating felines as an invasive species is a dangerous precedent. Next will be any other group the current politicians deem undesirable. Many of the island cats are abandoned which is a problem created by humans, and can be managed by humans in a humane manner, not by killing. Introducing reactionary measures to "solve" the problem quickly by a sneaky addendum may be a means to placate complaining constituents, but it does so at the cost of animal lives. In addition takes away property owners' rights. How would constituents feel about canines being declared an invasive species? More voters need to be made aware of what the intent and potential detrimental outcome this bill has.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:47 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: milholen.jennifer@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:13 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: pulelehua23@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 11, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
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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 11, 2016
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1607
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1607. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant (LFA) Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map, and requires reports to be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2016 and 2017 Regular Sessions. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided that it does not impact the priorities established in the Department's executive budget and provides comments on the measure.

The Department understands the harmful and invasive nature of LFA. As such, the Department has provided support to Hawaii County for a pilot program to combat LFA beginning with Hawaii County parks. The Department has also provided funding and support for the Hawaii Ant Lab, an organization that has been on the forefront in the fight against LFA and has created new and innovative methods to treat and eradicate LFA infestations. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the Hawaii Ant Lab is currently working on a map of known LFA infestations throughout the Big Island and further resources for the Hawaii Ant Lab could help them to finish this project and disseminate that information.

In regards to the coupon pilot project, the Department is concerned about the resources that would be required to monitor such a program. It would be very difficult for the Department, with its given resources, to verify and monitor if the pesticides were being used for the purpose of controlling LFA or for other purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.





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

February 11, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1607
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 312
9:00 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.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1607, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department of Agriculture to report to the Legislature on project implementation.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree that immediate measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.