

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
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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. 1607
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Wakai and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

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.

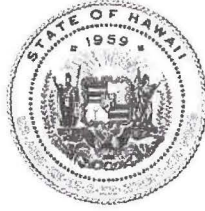
The Department understands the harmful and invasive nature of LFA. As such, the Department has provided support to Hawaii County for a pilot program to combat LFA beginning with Hawaii County parks. The Department has also provided funding and support for the Hawaii Ant Lab, an organization that has 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**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 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.

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

KEKOA 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
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



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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 1607
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

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 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.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

And

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.

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

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology and Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1607, which asks 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 to involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests.



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

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Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
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March 14, 2016

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and 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.)

Friday, March 18, 2016, 1:45 p.m., in Conference Room 414

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.

March 18, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

State Capitol, Room 414

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

HEARING: Friday, March 18, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, submitting written testimony 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 submit written testimony.

From the office of -
Council Member
District 4 - Puna Makai



Office: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 965-2707
Email: gilagan@hawaiicounty.gov

GREGGOR ILAGAN
25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 15, 2016

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard, and Joint Committee Members,

I write in support of House Bill 1607, regarding the establishment of a pesticide treatment coupon pilot program for little fire ants, a site map, and appropriations.

Hawaii County has been fortunate to an ongoing treatment program for little fire ants at county facilities, including parks, thanks to the support of the Department of Agriculture. However, there is no existing program to assist private citizens with ant infestations on their properties. HB 1607 would address this gap in coverage.

The little fire ant has potential to cause tremendous disruption islandwide to agricultural production, the quality of visitor experience, and endemic animal species. It also poses a threat to young children and pets. I am sure you have heard much about the problem that Hawai'i faces from this ant - and as long as it is established on one island, it is a threat to all islands. I appreciate your Committee for considering this important bill.

Sincerely,

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304
Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

March 18, 2016

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment,
and Technology
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

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

Chair Wakai, Chair Gabbard and Members of the Joint 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, at least as an option. 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. Not every homeowner will want to climb a ladder and make an outdoor pesticide application.

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 one of the options should be to give the coupon to a private operator thereby reducing the homeowner's cost. The coupons would be redeemable by the consumer to the pest control operator.

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 redeemable in more than one manner.

Thank you.

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 1:35 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: bschoneberg@rhomac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Schoneberg	Individual	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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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 12:52 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: eisele@rhomac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 3/17/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eli Isele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 1:22 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: jonikamiya@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM

HB1607

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Fire ants and other invasive species can forever change the land and how we use it. It's clear. Support evidence based laws like these.

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2016 7:15 AM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: wekeis333@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 3/16/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tony Sylvester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 8:55 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM

HB1607

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: These fire ants would ruin our enjoyment of the outdoors. Strongly supportive of the State working on this invasive species problem. Mahalo

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 7:17 AM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM*

HB1607

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
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 9:01 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: begoniabarry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Mar 18, 2016 13:45PM

HB1607

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

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

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

Comments: Aloha, I am opposed to homeowners being given pesticides to use freely on LFA. I would hope there would be an educational program put in place for safe use of pesticides. Not all homeowners follow directions and it could cause more of a problem than it helps. I would like to see biological agents used before pesticides. Mahalo,

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