

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 FINANCE

February 25, 2016
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 1607
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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 a report to be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2017 Regular Session. 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



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

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
FINANCE

Thursday, February 25, 2016
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1607
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

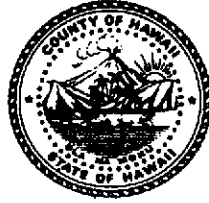
House Bill 1607 proposes to create a coupon program for residents to receive treatments for little fire ant infestations and require the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to create maps of infested areas. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided 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.

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

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Dear Chair Luke and 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.

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

Greggor Ilagan
Council Member



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 11:00 a.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

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the House Committee on Finance, 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 to involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests.



February 23, 2016

Representative Sylvia J. Luke, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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 25, 2016, 11:00 a.m., in Conference Room 308

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.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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

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

February 25, 2016

Testimony To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

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

Chair Luke 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, 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.



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February 25, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1607
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, 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.

February 24, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance
State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

HEARING: AGENDA #1, Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 11:00 a.m.

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

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: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 9:31 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wao-hsl@WeAreOne.cc
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Oppose	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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3620 Waiialae Ave Suite 203
Honolulu, HI 96816-3253

FEBRUARY 24, 2016

TESTIMONY PROVIDING COMMENTS ON House Bill 1607

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Aloha Arborist Association (AAA) SUPPORTS WITH CHANGES HB 1607 Relating to invasive species - Mandating the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project.

AAA and many of its members have worked with the conservation and invasive species community for many years. We support the intent of this bill to help control Little Fire Ant but we recommend some changes to improve the implementation.

AAA recommends making the coupon payable to a licensed pesticide applicator or a coupon redeemable for the appropriate pesticide to a landscape professional who has earned a certificate of completion issued by the Big Island Little Fire Ant Lab on proper use of the approved pesticide.

We support with these changes House Bill 1607.

Mahalo for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Zambo
President

Aloha Arborist Association is an organization of 79 individuals and companies who work in the tree care industry.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 4:14 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1607 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB1607

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katarina Culina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, I oppose this bill because it calls for toxic pesticide use. Poison to protect us no longer a valid model for protecting public health. Funds would be better used to research a natural, organic way of dealing with this pest. Mahalo, Katarina Culina Po box 2142 Paho, HI 96778

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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