



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

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OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed.

Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

In Support of HB2424
Relating to Biosecurity

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
03-31-16 9:05AM in conference room 211

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice-Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in **support of HB2424**.

The spread of invasive species is a substantial threat to Hawaii's economy, environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. As an association of farmers, we understand the hardships detrimental pests can cause to both the land and local crops.

Hawaii's distinctive ecosystem boasts unique conditions that are ideal for year-around agricultural activity. HCIA supports initiatives meant to reasonably secure and maintain this delicate system.

In closing, HCIA supports HB2424 and its efforts to diversify Hawaii's defense against invasive species and demonstrate a commitment to protecting Hawaii's land, farmers, and residents for years to come.

We thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 31, 2016

9:05 a.m.

Conference Room 211

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2424HD1SD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) Strongly **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 2424HD1SD1**.

A comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program is an action that is sorely needed and is essential for our industry. HFNA believes that building upon the current, though stalled, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach.

We strongly support this measure because it reaffirms to the Department of Agriculture that the Biosecurity program is vital and is needed to focus on what it was intended to do, which was to establish a **comprehensive prevention system** that would help to stop the entry of invasive species while allowing our agricultural industries to increase levels of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

HFNA supports the amendment to the biosecurity law to allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. Transportation efficiency is a critical component of the growth of agriculture. However, we do agree that inspection should be left to Plant Quarantine inspectors, who are hired and trained to perform this task. We support an increase in the number of inspectors, who can prevent introductions into Hawaii, and also to assist in the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan.



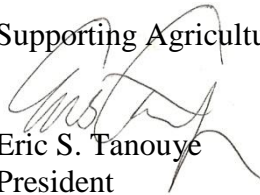
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We hope that we would be able to provide input as an industry. As in the past, when we met regularly to discuss issues and worked together on initiatives.

This is an important and essential program, which has been stalled for too long.

We thank you for your consideration of HB2424HD1SD1. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye

President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association