

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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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 4, 2016
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2424
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2424. This bill would establish a new part in chapter 150A, HRS that would allow for the department to enter into private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and for the department to adopt rules to establish parameters and construction requirements for biosecurity facilities. The department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The department has been working with freight forwarders, airlines, produce importers, and others to develop inspection facilities, manifesting systems, database sharing and other avenues to enhance the effectiveness of our biosecurity program. This bill will strengthen our ability to work collaboratively with our partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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
AGRICULTURE

Thursday, February 4, 2016
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2424
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

House Bill 2424 proposes to authorize the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to enter into private-public partnerships to implement enhancements to the biosecurity program described in Section 150A-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and would appropriate funds to support projects that enhance the HDOA biosecurity program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding.**

The Department recognizes the importance of port-of-entry biosecurity systems and supports opportunities to enhance this system through innovative partnerships. The interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), of which the Department and the HDOA are co-chairs, conducted a stakeholder survey in late 2014 on legislative concepts relating to biosecurity. This survey found that the majority of respondents (78%) supported the concept of utilizing private-public partnerships in enhancing biosecurity systems. Detailed survey responses are available in a summary report from the HISC website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>. With regard to the topics identified for potential funding support, the Department recognizes these as appropriate areas for program development.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

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

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 04, 2016
8:30 A.M.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act
HB2424 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) **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 2424**.

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

The first and only biosecurity inspection facility in the State is on Maui at Kahului Airport. The Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP) Inspection facility houses the federal and state agencies responsible for receiving and inspecting agricultural cargo on domestic and foreign flights. The building has been designed so that inspection, treatment and destruction can be done within the inspection facility so that invasive species cannot escape. As a result of the state-owned, state-operated facility, the number of pests intercepted at Kahului airport became far greater than the rest of the State, despite being 5% of the total volume of the state. As a secondary benefit, because the importers became aware of the improved inspection process, importers chose to wash their commodities prior to shipment into Maui, resulting in cleaner products being sent to Maui.

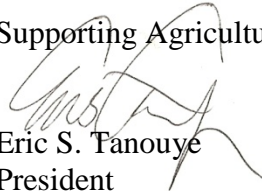
We hope that there is consideration in constructing state-owned and operated facilities for the rest of the State and respectfully ask that on page 5, line 15, “inspection and” is deleted so that the entire State benefits from better protection.

We also hope to 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 HB2424. 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



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Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 4, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2424
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 312
8:30 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 supports with comments HB 2424 which provides funds and requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process.

During these days of limited resources, public-private partnerships are important opportunities to provide service and opportunities by government. The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is a good example of a public-private partnership that has proven its' value over time. It couples volunteers with State and County resources, accomplishing much more than any of the participating entities could accomplish on their own.

Another example is the vehicle registration and safety check process. Here, regulatory requirements are implemented by private entities but the final regulatory action is done by the police or other publicly hired entity. No confidential business information is involved.

However, the suggested private-public partnership crosses into an unknown arena. The Plant Quarantine requirements discussed in this measure are not only regulatory in nature but could also involve business information such as the identity of customers and importers. The proposal is not clear as to whether the private party is a transportation company or a party that is currently an importer and expanding their operations. If the party is a transportation company, no problem should exist as they already manage

such business information. However, if the party is an importer, that is providing additional services to other importers, there is a concern whether the private business information provided will give an unfair business advantage to that party. A discussion and clarification of the kinds of private entities that could enter into this partnership is needed.

We respectfully respect your support of this important measure while addressing the concern to ensure that confidential business information is protected. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:25 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:42 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Tropical Flowers and Foliage Association Kauai	Support	No

Comments:

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**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: Thursday, February 4, 2016 8:30 am
Conference Room 312

In Support of HB 2424 Relating to Biosecurity

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

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2424, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process, and appropriates funds.

We support HB 2424 provided the funding is additive and does not come at the expense of other DLNR and Department of Agriculture programs to prevent invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control invasive species already established here.

We urge the legislature to appropriate a total of at least \$50,000,000 annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species."

Invasive species negatively affect the environment, the economy, and our quality of life. They threaten human health and native wildlife. They harm and they kill. We need to spend more money preventing invasive species from taking over our islands. There has never been enough money to do so, and we see the results of that "penny-wise, but pound-foolish" practice of underfunding invasive species control. We can pay now or pay much more later when invasive species spread.

Here is a photograph of the brown treesnake threatening a young child on Guam. Please support HB 2424 and other funding mechanisms for invasive species programs.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



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Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Brown tree snake.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

In Strong Support of HB2424 Relating to Bio Security

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Thursday, 02-04-16 8:30AM in House conference room 312.

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, 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 strong support of HB2424.

The unbridled spread of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, environment, and 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 secure and maintain this delicate system. Providing the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture the ability to establish public-private partnerships to expand biosecurity facilities will bolster Hawaii's defenses and help secure this initiative.

HCIA's member companies are consistently on the forefront of mitigating pest damage to locally grown crops. Our experience has taught us the importance of creating a culture that allows the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Pest Control Branch the necessary tools to take up this task statewide.

In closing, HB2424 will not only diversify Hawaii's defense against invasive species. It will demonstrate a commitment to protecting Hawaii's land, farmers, and residents for years to come.

We thank you for this time and hope that you will vote in favor of HB2424.

Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

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