

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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. 2542
RELATING TO THE AUDITOR

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2542. This bill requires the auditor to conduct a financial and performance audit of the duties and facilities of the plant quarantine branch to facilitate the transfer of the branch from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Transportation. The department respectfully opposes this bill.

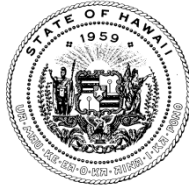
The department agrees with the statements on the importance in preventing these pests from entering Hawaii and with the negative impact of invasive species. To address this, the department has been actively engaged in a biosecurity program. We consider our biosecurity program a high priority program within the department and are committed to continuing the program and improving it. To this end, the department has continued to secure outside funding for our biosecurity program bringing in \$4.5 million in the past two fiscal years. This is to prevent the entry and establishment of pests such as brown tree snake, coconut rhinoceros beetle, red imported fire ant, and Africanized bees, among others. The department has also continued to assess the effectiveness of its inspection program at the ports of entry. The plant quarantine branch conducts periodic enhanced inspections to assess the risks of all agricultural commodities imported. Based on these assessments the inspectors focus inspections on the high risk commodities, thus not wasting efforts on the low risk commodities. These low risk commodities are inspected less frequently. This has allowed the branch to be more effective in its inspections and interceptions of invasive species. This bill cites a decrease in insect interceptions from 3,416 in FY13 to 1,034 in FY15 and considers this as a failure with the branch (the actual numbers are 2,475 in FY13 and 1,595 in FY15). These numbers are not a failure but actually a testament to the effectiveness of targeting inspections to high risk commodities. Unlike previous years, time is not being



wasted collecting insects that are already established in Hawaii and will not have any impact once they pass through the port. The inspections are focused on commodities and insects which will have a negative impact on agriculture, the environment and the people of Hawaii and prevents their entry.

The bill mandates an audit to facilitate the movement of the plant quarantine branch from the department of agriculture to the department of transportation. This idea appears to be based on a misconception of the mandates, duties, and activities of the plant quarantine branch. The premise in the bill is that the plant quarantine branch has been ineffective in its inspections at the ports and that movement of the branch into the department of transportation will correct this. Not only is this not the case but the duties of the plant quarantine branch are much broader than conducting inspections at the harbors and airports. The duties also include many duties outside the ports. These include certification of nurseries, nursery inspections, response to sightings of illegal animals such as snakes, permitting for the import of animals, plants, microorganisms, evaluation of the risk in import requests, inspections of importers facilities, legal investigations of smuggling, and other duties. None of these are related to department of transportation functions, mandates, nor are they conducted or related to ports.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



Testimony by:
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

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

H.B. 2542
RELATING TO AUDITOR

House Committee on Agriculture

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **opposes** this bill, which proposes to require the State Auditor to conduct an audit of the plant quarantine branch of the Department of Agriculture to facilitate its transfer to the DOT.

Pursuant to HRS 26-19, the mission of DOT is to provide a safe, efficient, accessible, and sustainable inter-modal transportation system. The DOT believes that an organizational transfer of the plant quarantine branch from the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to DOT will **not** increase the efficiency of the branch as our missions are divergently different. Instead the DOT should focus on modernizing its facilities, ensure conservative planning of finances, and execute projects in an efficient and effective manner.

The DOT currently works with DOA and its plant quarantine staff to provide access to its ports facilities. Provided their inspectors qualify for the proper security clearance, they are provided access to restricted areas to conduct their inspections.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined Grant Assurance No. 25, requires all revenue generated by the airport and aviation fuel taxes must be used for capital or operating costs at the airport system directly related to the actual air transportation of passengers or property. For clarification, there is no mandate by the FAA to reduce or eliminate the introduction of invasive species at the State airports.

The DOT believes that the DOA is the appropriate agency for the plant quarantine branch and is more in line with their mission.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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February 4, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2542
RELATING TO THE AUDITOR

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 provides comments to HB 2542, directing the auditor to audit the plant quarantine branch of DOA to facilitate its transfer to DOT.

HFB has always been an active participant in the development of programs to manage invasive species in Hawaii. The program is not only important for agriculture but for all of society. We most recently saw the threat to watersheds on the Big Island by Ohia Wilt and public safety by the dengue and zika viruses. Throughout our efforts it was obvious that the program would only be successful with a comprehensive effort by all agencies, both public and private.

The Department of Transportation plays a key role as the transport of many of the invasives occurs through transportation mechanisms rather than other means. Yet too often, invasive species is not addressed during their planning of program goals and is often added as an afterthought.

For example, as Hawaii sought to finance the needs of inspection via cargo fees, the marine sector cooperated with the effort. The air sector not only opposed it, they also opposed the new law in the legal arena. National forces came into play and while Hawaii is not in parity with the rest of the country, we were further isolated when they refused to provide funds that could be used for inspection by the State. Although our federal tax dollars are used to protect the State, the message was sent that Hawaii needs to fend for itself. It does not seem fair.

This measure provides the mechanism to explore what could happen if the responsibility were placed on the Department of Transportation, given the agency could play a major role in the transport of invasive species to Hawaii. By placing the responsibility in the Department of Transportation, the importance of including invasive species management in all of their program goals should be clear. We believe the Department of Agriculture would continue to be an active player as a partner. During the process responsibilities can be clearly delineated to ensure accountability, minimizing the time spent trying to determine which agency is responsible for what role.

We respectfully request your support in advancing this measure for discussion. Thank you for this opportunity to provide input on this measure.



LATE

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
HB2542 RELATING TO THE AUDITOR.

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 2542**. We are thoroughly frustrated with the administration's lack of transparency and communication. The department has failed to provide annual reports required by law for the last three years. The pest interception rate has fallen in the last two years because: 1) inspectors are inspecting less and are focusing on propagative plants. Therefore, we feel the audit is necessary.

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 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.



Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for your consideration of HB2542. 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

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:37 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: dale@hicattle.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2542 on Feb 4, 2016 08:30AM*

HB2542

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	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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