

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
PEST CONTROL BOARD**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2016

Wednesday, February 10, 2016  
10:20 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2765, RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF  
HONEY BEE COLONIES.**

TO THE HONORABLE CLIFT TSUJI, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is May Ferrer and I am the Executive Officer for the Pest Control Board ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on House Bill No. 2765, Relating to the Preservation of Honey Bee Colonies. While the Board has not yet had an opportunity to formally review this bill, it will do so at its next meeting on Monday, March 14, 2016.

The purpose of this bill is to prohibit pest control operators from exterminating honey bee colonies that can be safely removed and transported to a different location.

At this time, we would like to offer the following comments:

As currently written, the measure proposes that a pest control operator shall contact an apiologist, a melittologist, an entomologist, or a beekeeper to determine whether the honey bee colony can be safely removed and transported to a new location. The bill further proposes that the pest control operator make arrangements for the removal and transportation of the colony.

We respectfully ask that serious consideration be given to the fact that there will be an indefinite time delay to accomplish the foregoing elements in the bill as the proposed measure calls for specialists who may not be readily available.

Furthermore, the bill places far too much responsibility on the pest control operator who would be required to make contact with a specialist and coordinate the relocation of the colony.

Consideration of the health, welfare and safety of individuals with regard to the practice of pest control is a Board concern and priority. Therefore, we ask that time be allowed for a formal review of the bill and for providing any recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2765.



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PCO #803

February 8, 2016

To: The Honorable Committee on Agriculture

Cc: Tim Lyons, HPCA

Email: <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/submittestimony.aspx>.

Email: [timlyons@cs.com](mailto:timlyons@cs.com)

RE: Opposition to the current bill as written on bee control

HB 2765

Web Testimony

From: Mark Redeker, President, Mid-Pacific Pest Control, Inc. PCO 803

- 1) In opposition to the bill there is no provision for an emergency call. A swarm of bees affecting a public area causing injury (stinging visitors/residents) in areas around pools and other public/private areas where people gather. The delay in calling the "other professionals" could result in serious injury or death.
- 2) Define "safely removed". The cost to dismantle structural locations could be in the 10's of thousands to attempt to save a hive. Currently beekeepers on Maui charge \$400 to \$600 to collect an easy hive. If the structure has to be dismantled none of the beekeepers will attempt because they are not contractors to demo or rebuild a structure.
- 3) As to having a PCO remove, move or do other than eliminate in place at the direction of other professionals. My company will not attempt these actions due to the liability of bees getting loose and stinging others not directly affected by the original problem. Also we are not a licensed contractor and no insurance to do structural modifications.
- 4) We strongly encourage customers to call beekeepers first. If they cannot help them we evaluate first and destroy if necessary.
- 5) If you would like to redraft please don't hesitate to contact me. We eliminate about 20 hives per year.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Mark Redeker



# Mr. T's Pest Control, Inc.

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February 10, 2016

Testimony To: House Committee on Agriculture  
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair

Presented By: Robert Todd, Owner/President  
Mr. T's Pest Control

Subject: H.B. 2765 - RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to give my experience with honey bees as a pest control operator on Kauai. We are not in favor of a bill that would require us to contact other professionals prior to eliminating or terminating a honey bee colony. We have three clients that are allergic to bee stings and in those cases, we have eradicated bees as quickly as possible. Approximately four times a year, we are asked to eliminate honey bees at resort properties due to the fact that they cannot know what visitor could be allergic to bee stings. A bill requiring us to contact other professionals prior to eliminating or terminating a honey bee colony in these instances could put lives in jeopardy. In addition, we do not hold a contractor's license or have the knowledge required to extract and/or move a bee colony. Such a service would be costly to clients and could encourage them to seek other methods of elimination. We do understand the importance of

honey bees and our beekeepers. With the exception of the above, every caller inquiring about honey bee treatments is given a list of beekeepers on island. The primary issues with the beekeepers that we've heard of seems to be unavailability, that they are no longer keeping bees or are no longer on island. We advise callers to let the beekeeper determine if the bees cannot be salvaged, so we already fulfill the intent of such a bill. We rarely receive a call back asking us to eradicate the bees because the bees can't be salvaged. Even without a quick response from beekeepers, this procedure has been successful. We were made aware of a beekeeper wanting to perform his own pest control treatment to eradicate bees only once in the past fifteen years. We cautioned our client, that beekeeper is no longer on island, and we haven't become aware of any other instance since. Overall, our clients partner with us in an attempt to salvage honey bees and we believe that the list of beekeepers has been helpful in this endeavor to produce a win-win situation. We will continue to prioritize our clients' lives and safety and will continue to play a role in salvaging our bees at every opportunity



# **HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION**

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February 10, 2016

Testimony To: House Committee on Agriculture  
Representative Clift Tsuji, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE  
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 2765 - RELATING TO THE PRESERVATION OF HONEY BEE COLONIES

Chair Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association, a statewide organization representing the pest control operators that are referred to in this bill.

Honey bee control and associated problems has been a very heavily discussed subject over the last few years.

As such, it has caused a variety of discussions even within our industry. As it turns out the majority of our members do not do bee control at all. In fact the first thing they do is contact a beekeeper to come out because if the colony can be safely removed that's what they prefer to do as well.

There are however, times where we attempt to eliminate or terminate and that is primarily when the colony has been built between walls or in other inaccessible areas where the only way to control the bees is to perform elimination instead of removal and relocation. In those instances we are not sure what additional information the professionals that are listed in this bill would be able to offer, including a beekeeper.

We don't mean to name call here however, as our members tell us it is oftentimes the beekeeper that performs elimination or termination services. We are not quite sure in that instance why it would be that the pest control operator has to obtain approval from the beekeeper only to have the beekeeper perform the same service that the pest control operator was going to perform, reportably at a higher cost. We might add here that beekeepers are not highly thought of as knowledgeable about construction techniques or methods and pest control operators are trained in this area.

Additionally, this whole issue has given rise to the subject as to whether beekeepers should be licensed as pest control operators. After all, a pest control operator is one who controls household pests and if a bee colony has infested a home then anyone who attacks the problem is doing so as a pest control operator.

In short, we are opposed to this bill because we think it adds an additional time frame for the homeowners inconvenience in obtaining the permission of a third party just to perform control services. That will not go over well in emergency situations.

Based on the above we oppose this bill.

Thank you.



**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 09, 2016 9:40 PM  
**To:** AGRtestimony  
**Cc:** expert@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2765 on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM

**HB2765**

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for AGR on Feb 10, 2016 10:20AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Keith A. Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am the owner of a pest control company on the island of Kauai. Although I whole heartedly support the intent of HB 2765, I cannot in good conscience support the bill. Our company already works with local bee keepers to save as many honey bee hives as possible and only eliminates hives as a last resort. There are times when it is an actual emergency and occupants are highly allergic and elimination needs to be done immediately. Waiting several days for a bee expert to show up is not the answer. Creating a law that ties the hands of professional pest control companies and making honey bee work more expensive for the homeowner will only insure that we as a pest control business will turn down these jobs. Enforcing this law will also create more work for an already undermanned and under budgeted Department of Agriculture. A more cost effective way is for the State Department of Agriculture to work with our pest control association ( HPCA) to set up an SOP when dealing with honeybees. I am sure that all pest control companies would be willing to follow procedures that save as many honeybee hives as possible. Thank you for allowing me to make this testimony. Keith A. Smith, President, Expert Exterminators, Inc.

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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