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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

April 2, 2015
9:30 A.M.
Conference Room 211

**HOUSE BILL NO. 871 HD 1, SD 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 871 HD 1, SD 1. This bill would establish the Hawaii biosecurity program as a function of the entire Department of Agriculture and require the Department to participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process. 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.

Furthermore, placing the biosecurity program into the Department's general statutes will give the program department-wide responsibilities and facilitate a collaborative and integrated approach among all entities within the Department whose programs address and impact biosecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, April 2, 2015
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 871, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Bill 871, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 would broaden the Biosecurity Program at the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to become a department-wide initiative rather than the sole responsibility of the Plant Quarantine Branch. This measure would also authorize the HDOA to enter in to private-public partnerships to implement enhancements to its biosecurity program, and would appropriate funds for biosecurity projects. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

With regard to SECTION 2 of this measure, which would broaden the Biosecurity Program to become a department-wide initiative rather than the sole responsibility of the Plant Quarantine Branch, the Department is in strong support. The Department notes that an effective biosecurity program includes pre-border, border, and post-border efforts to minimize the introduction, establishment, and spread of invasive species. A department-wide focus for the Biosecurity Program more accurately reflects the scope of work needed to implement these efforts.

SECTION 2 also includes language that would authorize the HDOA to enter into private-public partnerships to enhance portions of the Biosecurity Program. The Department supports this concept and notes that the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), of which the Department and the HDOA are co-chairs, conducted a stakeholder survey on this topic in late 2014. The survey results showed that the majority of respondents (78%) supported the concept of private-public partnerships relating to biosecurity. The full survey report is available from the HISC website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING 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



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 2, 2015
9:30 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 871 HD1 SD1

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 871 HD1**, *Relating to Biosecurity*, which elevates the issue and responsibilities related to all aspects of biosecurity from within various branches to a core function of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA); authorizes HDOA to enter into public-private agreements for inspection facilities; and appropriates funds to HDOA for the implementation of its Biosecurity Program.

The passage of this bill would be an important first step in placing Biosecurity as an overarching goal of HDOA, instead of a program within the Plant Quarantine Branch. With this re-alignment, CGAPS urges HDOA to publicly share their overarching Biosecurity Plan with goals and actions for the next 2, 5, and 10 years.

We also ask for additional clarity in Section 5, on the list of projects that would be funded through an appropriation. For example, the list of projects does not clearly include supporting the costs of planning, building and running, or partnering in running, quarantine inspection facilities, a priority that is featured so heavily in several areas in Section 2, (unless that is what is meant by "Section 5 (6) Improvement of productivity of inspection capacity").

Also, there is an electronic maritime manifest system being used by one shipping company, and the funding could support the expansion of the system to other maritime import and/or interisland shipping companies. However, pathway risk assessments and agriculture inspections have shown that there are more pests arriving in air cargo than in maritime cargo, although the level of risk of species arriving via ship vs. air cargo has not been assessed. CGAPS and HDOA worked with an air cargo carrier to set up and test an electronic air cargo manifest system as a pilot project. The project resulted in two important findings: 1) that a higher level of commodity detail is required for air cargo manifests, and 2) the database system within HDOA is outdated and inadequate for the needs of the agency. Therefore, we suggest that a more holistic project description for Section 5 (6) might be, "Support the planning, development, and implementation of electronic manifests".

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on HB 871 HD1 SD1, and we respectfully ask your support of this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



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April 2, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 871 HD 1 SD 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 211
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of HB 871 HD 1 SD 1, which established the Hawaii biosecurity program as a function of the entire DOA and appropriates funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for their biosecurity program. It also requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process. .

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Most recently, the coffee berry borer was found on Oahu demonstrating issues with interisland product movement.

Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability

Funding the HDOA's biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state.

This measure addresses the needs of HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawaii and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawaii. HFB is willing to work with the legislature and department to accommodate updates as needed to achieve our goals in biosecurity.

Please pass HB 871 HD 1 SD 1. Mahalo.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mnakahata@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB871 on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM
Date: Wednesday, April 01, 2015 2:22:43 PM

HB871

Submitted on: 4/1/2015

Testimony for WAM on Apr 2, 2015 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Prioritization for biosecurity projects may be lost. Existing measures in law to assure implementation is deleted on this version

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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