

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240 SD1 HD1  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN ADJUTANT GENERAL  
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
March 30, 2016

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Finance.

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240 SD1 HD1.

With the increased threat from Dengue, Zika and other mosquito vector diseases, the lack of a Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health seriously impedes the current and any future mosquito control efforts statewide.

The State needs to recover from the drastic 2009 personnel reductions that directly impacts any vector control response. It is critical the Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health be reestablished immediately.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240 SD1 HD1.

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240 SD1 HD1  
A BILL MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY  
VERN MIYAGI  
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY  
March 30, 2016

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

I am Vern Miyagi, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240 SD1 HD1.

Based on the current Dengue outbreak situation on the Big Island and the advent of other mosquito vector borne illnesses that could threaten Hawaii, it is clear that the Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health needs to be re-established immediately.

What kept us safe in the past was an active and dedicated Vector Control Branch in the Hawaii Department of Health. The severe staff reductions in 2009 are the primary cause of the current outbreaks of mosquito vector diseases in the state. Please support this re-establishment action.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2152 SD1 HD1.



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee  
Supporting S.B. 2240 SD 1 HD1: Making an Appropriation to the Department of Health  
to Reestablish a Vector Control Branch  
House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday March 30, 2016 3:00PM, Room 308

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports S.B. 2240 SD1 HD1 which would reestablish the Vector Control branch at the State Department of Health. The current Dengue Fever outbreak makes plain the need for a state agency that is able to facilitate all aspects of mosquito-borne diseases including prevention, early detection, outreach and eradication. *Aedes aegypti*, the main vector for Dengue fever is present on the Big Island, it is currently believed to be restricted to the Big Island, but it could spread to the other islands. The Centers for Disease Control note that *Aedes aegypti* has over the years made several adaptations in the face of human efforts to eradicate it. The State will have to mount a sustained and systematic effort to rid itself of this mosquito.

In addition to Dengue, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* both carry the Zike, Chikenguya and Yellow Fever viruses. We do not have the species of mosquito that carries malaria, but given that our tourist-based economy would crash if people had to take malaria medication while they were on vacation here, an early detection program seems warranted. There is certainly important work that justifies re-funding the Department of Health's Vector Control Branch. We support Legislative action to accomplish this. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

*Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that coordinates across government, non-governmental and cultural organizations, business, academia and philanthropy to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals.*

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## Steering Committee

Deanna Spooner  
June Matsumoto  
Matt Lynch  
Mark Fox  
Mike Hamnett  
Piia Aarma  
Pono Shim  
Scott Enright  
Scott Seu  
Ulalia Woodside  
William J. Aila Jr.

**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth  
In Support of SB2240 SD1 HD1 to Make an Appropriation to the Department of Health  
to Reestablish a Vector Control Branch  
House Committee on Finance  
30 March 2016, 3:00pm, Room 308**

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB2240 SD1 HD1** to reestablish the Department of Health vector control branch and appropriate funds to mitigate the spread of disease from animals, rodents and insects, including mosquitoes.

The outbreak of Dengue on Hawai'i Island and increased threats from Zika and other mosquito vector diseases have highlighted the critical need to re-establish the vector control branch. In 2009, the Department of Health faced drastic personnel reductions; it is imperative to restore this capacity to adequately respond to current and new threats to Hawai'i's people, environment and economy.

Vector control is an important investment in resilience, public health and welfare for Hawai'i, which are key components of the *Aloha+ Challenge*. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a statewide commitment by the State Legislature (SCR 69), Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs launched in 2014 that outlines six ambitious, yet achievable sustainability goals for 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was internationally recognized by the US State Department and Global Island Partnership at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa, and positions Hawai'i as a model of local implementation of the recently adopted UN Sustainable Development Goals. As the host of the upcoming 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016, Hawai'i will have the opportunity to further demonstrate leadership on resilience, sustainable development and conservation.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth urges urgent action on SB2240 SD1 HD1.



# Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

*The Voice of Business*

**Testimony to the House Committee on Finance  
Wednesday, March 30, 2016 at 3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 308, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL 2240 SD1 HD1 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH**

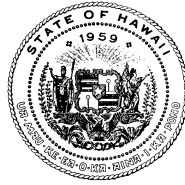
Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2240 SD1 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Health to hire more full-time employees for vector control and to reestablish a Vector Control Branch.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 1,000 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

The Department of Health's Vector Control branch is a critical program that involves controlling the spread of animals that have the potential to carry disease, from rodents to insects, including mosquitoes. We support this bill as it adds funding for this critical program at a time when there are several public health issues in our state such as the breakout of dengue fever. Unchecked not only is this a public health issue but an economic one. While some of the data is anecdotal we believe that there has been an impact to tourism and other parts of the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2240, SD 1, HD 1  
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 30, 2016  
Time: 3:00pm

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Reestablishment of the Department of Health's (DOH) Vector Control  
2 program to pre-RIF levels will require 34.0 FTE at approximately \$1.4M and approximately  
3 \$1.2M for Other Current Expenses, Equipment and Motor Vehicles with half being one-time  
4 costs. Recurring costs for Other Current Expenses are similar to pre-RIF budget amounts. The  
5 proposed staffing by island is as follows: Hawaii (8 positions), Maui (8 positions), Oahu (14  
6 positions), and Kauai (4 positions).

7 **Department Testimony:** The current dengue outbreak that started in October 2015 has been so  
8 far confined to Hawaii Island largely due to the combined and concerted efforts by DOH, County  
9 of Hawaii Civil Defense, and other state, county and federal agencies. The four Vector Control  
10 staff on Hawaii Island have been responding to this outbreak from the very beginning, on many  
11 occasion for seven days a week, by applying pesticides to reduce the mosquito population and  
12 public outreach via telephone or door-to-door.

13 With the release of the department's budget restriction, we are in the process of adding ten  
14 additional staff positions on a stopgap basis. These include: one entomologist, one  
15 communications specialist, and eight vector control worker specialists to support the outbreak  
16 response. The entomologist and communications specialist positions are filled and the vector  
17 control augmented staff should be filled by the end of March.

1 As the outbreak enters into its fifth month, DOH must develop strategies to continue the current  
2 and future response operations with a vector control program that is actively pursuing public  
3 health surveillance and deterrence.

4 The department acknowledges the difficulties and time required to establish and fill the  
5 requested authorizations to support the current and potential outbreaks. However, significantly  
6 reducing the number of requested positions will diminish the capabilities of the resultant vector  
7 control program. An effective vector control program includes not only personnel and  
8 equipment to aggressively respond to an outbreak but also the active collection and analysis of  
9 surveillance field data. Surveillance results indicate potential increases in mosquito breeding and  
10 the introduction of new mosquitoes which can be immediately controlled through the appropriate  
11 abatement procedures.

12 The potential introduction of additional mosquito-borne viral diseases like Zika and Chikungunya  
13 to the islands, further justifies a fully functional vector control program with an active  
14 surveillance and other abatement and deterrent measures.

15 Lastly, should the legislature determine to phase in the department's request for positions over 2  
16 or more years, the department anticipates undergoing two formal reorganizations and delay the  
17 creation of a complete and fully operational statewide vector control program. The initial  
18 reorganization will incorporate the first installment of positions into existing organizational  
19 structures. After the reorganization is complete, positions can be formally established then  
20 finally filled. When the department is allocated the second installment of position  
21 authorizations, we will be required to undergo a second reorganization to accommodate  
22 additional supervisors and line staff. However, should the department be allocated the entire  
23 requested position authorizations this session, we would undergo only one reorganization. This  
24 will allow the department to establish, fill and ultimately create a fully functional statewide  
25 vector control program more efficiently. This is especially critical should other outbreaks occur  
26 during this period.

27 **Offered Amendments:** Page 2, Bill Section 2, from line 4:

1 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum  
2 of \$2,604,226 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the  
3 department of health to hire [~~four~~] thirty-four full-time equivalent ( [~~4.0~~] 34 FTE) positions for  
4 vector control, including a vector control program manager, communications specialist, and  
5 [~~three~~] thirty-two vector control staff positions, and the inclusion of operating costs to take steps  
6 to fully reestablish a vector control program within the department's environmental health  
7 administration.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of health for the purposes of  
9 this Act.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.