

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU, HAWAII

David Y. Ige
Governor

March 14, 2016

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
SB 2240, SD1

House Committee on Health
Monday, March 14, 2016
2:15 p.m.

Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Vice Chair

The Office of the Governor **supports** the legislature's intent to provide additional funds to re-establish a statewide vector control program within the Department of Health (DOH).

With the onset in late October 2015 of the dengue outbreak in Hawai'i County, the DOH has been collaborating with Hawai'i County to monitor and prevent the spread of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. The Department has assigned existing epidemiological and vector control staff to the Big Island and has dedicated restricted departmental funds via the Governor's emergency proclamation to this ongoing effort.

The National Governor's Association, in conjunction with the White House and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), has called upon Hawai'i and other states vulnerable to mosquito-borne diseases to develop a statewide rapid response plan in preparation for potential future outbreaks. The DOH, in consultation with the Governor's Office and State Civil Defense, is working on such a plan for review and comment by the CDC.

However, a statewide rapid response plan to address a future outbreak of mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, zika, or chikungunya can only be implemented by re-establishing a statewide vector control program within the DOH.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY
VERN MIYAGI
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 14, 2016

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, 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.

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.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
March 14, 2016

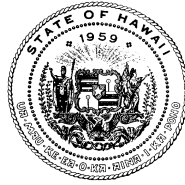
Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the House Committee on Health.

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.

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.



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

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: March 14, 2016
Time: 2:15pm

Room Number: 329

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.



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting S.B. 2240 S.D. 1: Making an Appropriation to the Department of Health
to Reestablish a Vector Control Branch
House Committee on Health
Monday March 14, 2016 2:15PM, Room 329

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports S.B. 2240 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 Zika, 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.



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March 14, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 2240, SD1
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

Room 329
2:15 PM

Aloha Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Creagan, 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 interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports SB 2240, SD1 which makes an appropriation to the Department of Health to assist in the ongoing dengue fever outbreak and for the department to reestablish a vector control branch, and to hire staff.

Due to the recent dengue outbreak, local residents and tourists have learned the hard way how important it is to have an active and effective vector control unit to help combat mosquitoes that carry the disease and spread it to new areas and new victims.

Public health necessitates the return of this DOH branch so that Hawaii has adequate resources to prevent proliferation of disease-carrying animals and to respond quickly to potential outbreaks of disease.

Because they spend so much time outdoors tending their crops and livestock, farmers and ranchers across the state may be exposed and vulnerable to various animals that could spread disease. HFB supports restoring the vector control branch and ensuring that it is adequately funded.

Thank you for your support of this important measure.

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.

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 to Make an Appropriation to the Department of Health to Reestablish A Vector Control Branch House Committee on Health 14 March 2016, 2:15pm, Room 329

Aloha Chair Au Belatti, Vice Chair Creagan, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB2240 SD1 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.

HLTtestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2016 12:15 PM
To: HLTtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM*

SB2240

Submitted on: 3/14/2016

Testimony for HLT on Mar 14, 2016 14:15PM in Conference Room 329

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	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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