



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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L A T E

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

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 4, 2016 Room Number: 229
Time: 9:00am

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Reestablishment of the Department of Health's (DOH) Vector Control
2 Branch to pre-RIF levels will require 37.0 FTE and approximately \$1.9M.

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

9 The remaining 13 Vector Control staff on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai fly into West Hawaii to
10 provide assistance, in addition to maintaining their work on their respective home island,
11 including responding to imported cases of dengue. The DOH has also been augmenting the
12 small vector control staff with staff from other programs statewide; primarily the food safety
13 inspectors and environmental health specialists.

14 As the outbreak enters into its fourth month, DOH must develop strategies to continue the
15 current response operations with a vector control staff that are dedicated in maintaining public
16 health and safety but extremely understaffed and we must also look to the future and start
17 developing plans to adequately address future outbreaks with appropriate manpower and
18 equipment.

1 By fully reestablishing the Vector Control Branch to staffing and budget levels from 2009, the
2 State of Hawaii will be able to more effectively manage outbreaks such as dengue fever, and
3 other newly emerging public health threats such as zika virus, transmitted by the same *Aedes*
4 *aegypti* mosquito.

5

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

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of
8 the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1,901,475 or so much thereof as
9 may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to the department of
10 health to hire [~~four~~] thirty-seven full-time equivalent (~~[4.0]~~
11 37 FTE) positions for vector control, including a vector control
12 program manager, communications specialist, and [~~three~~] thirty-
13 five staff positions, and to take steps to fully reestablish a
14 vector control sector branch within the department's
15 environmental health administration.

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

18



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LATE

February 4, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 2240

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

Room 229
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, 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 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.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
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LATE

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 3, 2016

The Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection,
and Health
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street, Room 230
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Senator Baker and Members:

SUBJECT: S.B. 2240, Making an Appropriation to the Department of Health to Re-establish a Vector Control Branch

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management (DEM), City and County of Honolulu (City).


DEM strongly supports S.B. 2240, which proposes to make an appropriation to the Department of Health to reestablish a Vector Control Branch.

The purpose of a Vector Control Branch is to provide and maintain a proactive and dedicated vector control program throughout the State of Hawaii to keep our communities and visitors safe and protected from vector borne illnesses.

With the advent of the current Dengue outbreak situation on the Big Island and the potential of other mosquito vector borne diseases that could threaten the State of Hawaii, it is logical and prudent that the Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health be re-established immediately.

I urge your committee to pass S.B. 2240 out of Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Melvin N. Kaku
Director

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 5:13 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: thesnovers@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM

Categories: Late

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David&Uschi Snover	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, this a very important bill! With global warming there will be an increase of mosquitos, with increasing poverty there will be more and more trash on this island, with travel it is only a question of time when Zika will join Dengue on our islands. Florida has already declared emergency for 4 counties due to Zika and we are still waiting with 224 cases of Dengue. Please do something now. Mahalo

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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baker3 - James

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:20 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jmuir@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM

LATE

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeff muir	Individual	Support	No

Comments: DOH Vector control branch provides crucial public health services that ultimately provides protection for our public, our resources and even our economy.

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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