

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

BY

MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 23, 2016

Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

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.

The lack of a Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health seriously impedes the current Dengue control efforts on Hawaii Island. The State needs to recover from the drastic 2009 personnel reductions that seriously impact any vector control response.

With the increased threat from Dengue, Zika and other mosquito vector diseases, 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.

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BY
VERN MIYAGI
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 23, 2016

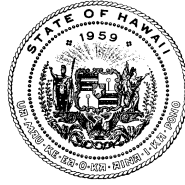
Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

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

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 2240.



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

SENATOR JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 23, 2016 Room Number: 211
Time: 9:50am

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

15 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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February 23, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAY AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2240

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

Room 211
9:50 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, 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.



February 3, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB2240

Members of the Hawaii Legislature:

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in support of requiring the Department of Health to re-establish a vector control branch in response to the 2015 outbreak of dengue fever on Hawaii Island. We encourage the Legislature to appropriate funds to the Department of Health for mosquito assessment and control efforts for Hawaii Island and to assist in reducing the occurrence and combatting the risk of dengue fever.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is about 60 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai'i. This dengue fever outbreak has had an impact on our residents, our employees, and visitors to our island and we encourage the Legislature and the Department of Health to take proactive measures to ensure that the Department of Health is adequately funded in this mission critical area.

Mahalo for your support.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director

Patrick Fitzgerald, Hualalai Resort
Kelley Cosgrove, The Fairmont Orchid, Hawai'i
Debi Bishop, Hilton Waikoloa Village
Rodney Ito, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows
Steve Yannarell, Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa
Craig Anderson, Mauna Kea Resort

Takashi Yamakawa, Mauna Lani Resort
Scott Head, Waikoloa Land Company
Denise Hill, Hualalai Resort
Robert Whitfield, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai
Peter Thoene, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel
and Hapuna Beach Prince Hotel