



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

LATE

TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING SB 2271

RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016, 2:45 PM, ROOM 224

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

BIISC SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE, AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING OLELO NO`EAU ABOUT THE OHIA LEHUA, THE KINOLAU OF KANE, OF KU, AND OF LAKA:

Ka `ōhi'a hihipe'a o Kealakomo. The entwining `ōhi'a branches of Kealakomo. Kealakomo, in Puna, Hawai'i, where the `ōhi'a trees grow thickly together.

He kai lu leua ko Pana'ewa. Pana'ewa shakes down the lehua fringes into the sea. Once the forest of Pana'ewa, Hilo, extended to the sea, and fringes of lehua blossoms were seen floating about in the water.

Na manu leo nui o Pana'ewa. Loud-voiced birds of Pana'ewa. Pana'ewa, Hilo, was famous for its lehua forests that sheltered the honey-sucking birds. Here people went to gather lehua and maile.

Ka ua kinai lehua o Pana'ewa. The rain that bruises the lehua blossoms of Pana'ewa.

Hilo i ka ua Kanilehua. Hilo of the Kanilehua rain. The rain that patters in the lehua forest.

Hilo, nahele paoa i ke `ala. Hilo, where the forest is imbued with fragrance.

Na lehua o Lihau i pehia e ka noe. The lehua blossoms of Lihau, Maui, weighed by the mist.

Ka ua Lililehua o Ka'anapali. The tiny-drops-on-the-lehua rain of Ka'anapali.

Ke uwe nei ka `ōhi'a o Kealakona. The `ōhi'a wood of Kealakona weeps [for you]. Uttered as a taunt by Mahihelelima, powerful warrior of Maui, when he sent his slingshots towards the warriors of Hawai'i under Pi'imaiwa'a. `Ōhi'a logs from Kealakona were used for the fortress on Ka'uiki, where Maui warriors fought the invaders. Later used to mean, "We are prepared to defend ourselves and we are sorry for you if you try and fight us."

Ka lehua nene'e o Ka'ana. The low-growing lehua of Ka'ana. Refers to Ka'ana, Moloka'i, the lehua of Ka'ana were loved by the goddess Kapo. The first or one of the first hula schools in the islands is said to have been located at Ka'ana. This lehua grove was destroyed by introduced animals.

Ka ua Noielehua o Wai'ale'ale. The misty-lehua rain of Wai'ale'ale, Kauai. The rain of Wai'ale'ale that moistens the lehua blossoms there.

Na lehua o Lulu'upali. The lehua blossoms of Lulu'upali. Famed in songs of Kaua'i were the lehua blossoms of Lulu'upali.



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

Na lehua puakea o Ninuauapo. The white lehua blossoms of Ninuauapo. White lehua blossoms flourished as Ninuauapo in Manoa, O'ahu.

Ka nalu ha'i o Kalehuawehe. The rolling surf of Kalehuawehe. Ka-lehua-wehe (Take-off-the-lehua) was Waikiki's most famous surf. It was so named when a legendary hero took off his lei of lehua blossoms and gave it to the wife of the ruling chief, with whom he was surfing.

Ho'i ka 'o'opu 'ai lehua i ka mapunapuna. The lehua-eating 'o'opu has gone back to the spring. Said of one who has gone back to the source.

Kauwa ke aloha i na lehua o Ka'ana. Love is a slave to the lehua blossoms of Ka'ana. Ka'ana is a place between Kea'au and 'Ola'a where travelers used to rest and make lei of lehua. It took many blossoms and much patience to complete a lei. The lei was later given to a loved one.

Ola aku la ka 'aina kaha, ua pua ka lehua i kai. Life has come to the kaha lands for the lehua blooms are seen at sea. "Kaha lands" refers to Kekaha, Kona, Hawai'i.

I mohala no ka lehua i ke ke'eke'ehi 'ia e ka ua. Lehua blossoms unfold because the rains tread upon them. It is the rain that brings forth the lehua blossoms--So do gentle words bring forth much that is desired.

We respectfully ask for your support. Funds are needed to put expert plant pathologists and researchers to work, to better understand the progression of this disease, and to develop the means to address it.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
Legislative Testimony

LATE

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2016 at 2:45 pm

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2271 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

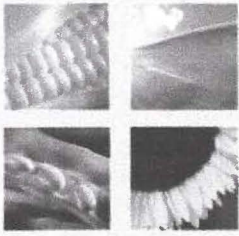
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2271, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State.

Rapid ohia death, caused by a fungal pathogen first identified in 2014, has spread extremely rapidly on the Big Island, from 15,000 acres of ohia forest infected by the disease in 2014, to 34,000 in 2016. Ohia makes up half the acreage, and half the woody biomass, of all the forests in Hawai'i. Loss of ohia across the state will severely impact our endangered forest birds that depend on the trees for nesting sites, and will intensify invasion of the forest by invasive plant species such as strawberry guava that use more water than ohia, with negative impacts on the watershed. From a cultural standpoint, it is difficult to imagine Hawai'i without ohia and the lehua flowers. Further, forests of dead trees will greatly damage tourism, particularly on the Big Island, and greatly increase fire hazards.

The nursery industry in Hawai'i has also been impacted by rapid ohia death, since it has been necessary to impose a quarantine on soil movement from the Big Island to prevent possible spread of the disease.

Researchers from state and federal agencies and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) are working to address the spread and management of this severe plant disease, but their efforts are limited by resources and by the absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease. SB 2271 would appropriate the funds necessary to increase these research and management efforts before the disease devastates Big Island forests, and spreads across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2271.



Hawaii Crop Improvement Association

Growing the Future of Worldwide Agriculture in Hawaii

LATE

HCIA 2014-2016 Board of Directors

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Executive Director

Bennette Misalucha

TESTIMONY FROM BENNETTE MISALUCHA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In Support of SB 2217

Appropriates funds for the operation, repair, maintenance, and improvement of the East Kauai irrigation system by the East Kauai Water Users' Cooperative.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2016, 2:45 pm in House conference room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy

HCIA supports the intent of SB 2217.

We understand the need to maintain, repair and improve irrigation systems in any agricultural endeavor. Setting aside the necessary resources towards this purpose would be appropriate to achieve this objective.

We humbly ask for the Committee's support of SB 2217.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

P.O. Box 126

Aiea, HI 96701

Tel: (808) 594-3611

director@hciaonline.com

admin@hciaonline.com

www.hciaonline.com



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

Senate COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE

Wednesday February 3, 2016. 2:45PM Room 224

In Support **HB2271** Relating to Environmental Protection

LATE

Aloha Chairman Gabbard and members of the Senate WLA Committee,

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports** HB2271 to appropriate funding to combat Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. This bill is crucial to the health of our native forests.

What HB2271 will do

This bill will help the Department of Agriculture combat the deadly and dangerous disease rapidly spreading through our forests by appropriating \$200,000 in general funds for critical research and emergency abatement and control measures.

The bill also requires a report to the next Legislature.

Why We Must Save the 'Ōhi'a

'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawai'i's native forests; found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would devastate our forests, trigger rampant spread of invasive species, and ultimately suffocate the fledging native tree market.

'Ōhi'a are the cornerstone of native upland ecosystems. Our forest watersheds can absorb and retain the water we use for drinking because of 'ōhi'a trees. Endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of 'Ōhi'a blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage. We would lose all of this if Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is not controlled immediately.

'Ōhi'a are a defense against the spread of invasive species. Because of their strength and versatility, 'ōhi'a grow in a wide range of climates and conditions. This makes them a key warrior in the battle against albezia, eucalyptus, and strawberry guava, which are known threats to Hawai'i's natural environment, public health, and safety. This dangerous, harmful trees would take over if the 'ōhi'a is lost to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.

'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – could you imagine the Merrie Monarch

Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawai'i.

'Ōhi'a are also helping to cultivate new markets in native trees. The beauty and diversity of this tree make it a favorite choice for commercial and residential landscapes. Native plant nurseries have built whole businesses around the sale of 'Ōhi'a. These markets would be lost if Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death goes unchecked.

We cannot afford to lose the battle against Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. For these reasons, we strongly urge this Committee to move this measure forward. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Mahalo,



Martha Townsend
Director

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:35 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: shayla@blissfulhat.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM

LATE

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shayla Middleton	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Shayla Middleton

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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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Cathy West Dale <cathywestdale1970@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 11:00 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271

LATE

February 3, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ōhi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

'Ōhi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Catherine Dale

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tamara Luthy <tamarahl@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 10:52 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Rapid Ohia Death

Categories: Blue Category

LATE

February 2, 2016
Testimony in **Support of SB2271**
Relating to Environmental Protection
Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ōhi‘a — endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ōhi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Tamara Luthy
PhD Student
Departments of Botany and Anthropology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
3190 Maile Way
Honolulu Hawaii 96822

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OF
LASHA-LYNN SALBOSA,
HAWAII KAI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD MEMBER AND
ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE CHAIR,

LATE

TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Testimony in SUPPORT of S.B. 2271
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016
Time: 2:45 p.m.

Room Number: 224
Present at Hearing: No

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am in **Strong Support of Senate Bill 2271**, and also offer the following recommendations. Senate Bill 2271 will require (1) a report to the legislature in 2017 and (2) an appropriation to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture in the amount of \$200,000 or as much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017, for the purposes of conducting research and control measures to combat Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, also known as Ceratocystis Wilt of 'Ōhi'a.

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death should be considered one of the most alarming environmental issues we face today because of its speed of transmission and rapid death of infected trees, as well as the unknown vectors on which it spreads. Additionally, 'Ōhi'a forests are the cornerstone of our watersheds and wildlife, and threats to this resource if left unchecked will have far-reaching natural, cultural, and economic impacts for generations to come.

It is for these reasons and more, that I offer the following three recommendations:

1. **Create a Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Task Force on July 1, 2016**, co-chaired by a representative from the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, with representatives from University of Hawaii-College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, large private landowners, and Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners; as well as other interested community members or organizations and federal resource agency partners. The State legislature or the Hawaii Department of Agriculture alone will not be able to react quickly enough to effectively address Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. Senate Bill 2271 should recognize the ongoing efforts and create the proper venue to support public-private partnerships to engage our community in developing and implementing actions to address and eradicate Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Disease.
2. **Increase the appropriation to \$300,000** or as much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 and ensure the Report to the legislature in 2017, contain prioritized and detailed actions undertaken by the Task Force and recommendations to quarantine, contain, control, and eradicate Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Disease.
3. Encourage the Task Force to seek financial support from other public and private sources and external expertise in forest pathology.

Mahalo and Thank you for your consideration.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Leslie Sponsel <sponsel@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 9:22 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: I support SB 2271

LATE

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease (Ceratocystis Wilt), and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. This should be a no-brainer.

Dr. Leslie E. Sponsel
521 Hahaioni St.
Honolulu, HI 96825

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:25 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: psull.007@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM

LATE

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Sullivan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, As a natural resource professional on Hawaii Island, I manage an invasive plants program and am all too aware of the detrimental effects of invasive species to our state's unique and fragile ecosystems. That is why I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of \$200,000 to support research of Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. I urge you to pass this measure ASAP and also to consider increased funding to support research, outreach, and prevention. The loss of ohia trees (and potentially the forests as a whole) would be detrimental to Hawaii's ecosystems, watersheds, as well as to the natural and cultural heritage of the islands. Mahalo for your consideration. Pamela Sullivan

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Lisa <4lisa.castle@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:21 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2271

February 3, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

LATE

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to support research of Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make lei – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua lei?

Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but it would be a huge cultural loss to all of Hawai'i Neii and its people. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly threat to our beloved 'ohi'a.

Sincerely,

Lisa M. Castle

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:20 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*

LATE

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan Armstrong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Melanie Ho <ho.melanie@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:15 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271

February 2, 2016

LATE

Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection
Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

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Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Melanie Ho

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mashuri Waite <mashuriw@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 12:14 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I support SB2271

LATE

To Senator Gabbard and Senator Nishihara

Ohia trees are hugely important to Hawaii for watersheds, wildlife habitat, and cultural uses. Their distinctive appearance also makes Hawaiiian forests uniquely beautiful. For these reasons and more I support setting aside funds to study the Rapid Ohia Disease to look for solutions against this disease that threatens continued existence of ohia forests.

Thank you for your consideration,

Mashuri Waite
1631 Liholiho St.
Honolulu

--
Mashuri Waite

gabbard2 - Donna

From: wolfgang@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:38 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271

LATE

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

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Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Leesa Wolfgang
Kihei, HI

February 3, 2016

Testimony Supporting S.B. 2271
Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

LATE

Aloha Legislators,

I **Support S.B.2271** which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to **the rapid 'ōhi'a death disease** and requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature. Such funding should be in addition to other funding appropriated for watershed and invasive species protection support from the State.

The rate of spread on the Big Island is alarming and is estimated to have spread from 15,000 acres in 2014 to 34,000 acres in 2015. 'Ōhi'a forests dominate approximately 865,000 acres in Hawaii and are a keystone species providing habitat for culturally important and unique species found nowhere else on earth. Furthermore, 'Ōhi'a is the primary species comprising our watersheds and their loss would result in reduced capacity of forest lands to gather, filter and slowly release water into our streams and aquifers.

'Ōhi'a tree canopies are comprised of moss covered limbs and leaves that reach into the moist trade winds. The moisture rich air condenses on these surfaces and contributes as much as 30% more water through cloud drip above direct precipitation from rain alone. These trees also shade the ground from evaporation on clear days and use less water than some of our worst invasive species to grow. Loss of 'ōhi'a forests could also expose fragile forest floors to direct rains, leading elevated rates of erosion and greater rates of sediment in our streams and reefs.

It is vital that we understand the fungus that causes Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death in the hope that we can contain its spread to other islands and reduce damage statewide. The potential cost of allowing this species to spread could be extremely detrimental to Hawaii's natural environment and sustainability. Anyone who has ever spent time in an 'ōhi'a forest should know what a truly beautiful and important species it is and the essential need to protect it from this disease. The loss of this species would be a natural disaster.

Mahalo,

Jill LaBram

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 1:56 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: ashman.janet@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2217 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*

LATE

SB2217

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J. Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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