



KAUAI TARO GROWERS ASSOCIATION

February 10, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON SB3030
RELATING TO CROP DAMAGES FROM ENDANGERED BIRDS

Room 224
3:30PM

The Honorable Senator Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee:

My name is Rodney Haraguchi and President of the Kauai Taro Growers Association and our organization is in support of this bill. The taro farmers as well as many other farmers on Kauai have suffered extensive damage from these endangered birds, especially from the Hawaiian Coot, Hawaiian Moorhen and Hawaiian Nene. At times some farmers have lost approximately 95% of their crop at harvest and in the early stages of planting have lost 95 % of their seedlings and young plants.

The damages on the present crops also affects the seedlings for the next taro crop and severe financial loss to the fertilizer, labor and equipment use that has gone into establishing that crop and time delay. As the years have gone by and the population of birds has increased geometrically, the birds consume the taro especially during the winter months when there may be less invertebrates in the water due to the cold weather for the Hawaiian Coot and Moorhen. However, the Nene consumes other dry land crops throughout the year when the vegetables are available.

This bill is a step in the right direction and DLNR should establish a protocol in concert with the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB) to carry out Section 2. Mahalo for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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