

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
and
AGRICULTURE**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1247
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

House Bill 1247 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for research, prevention, and mitigation for Rapid Ohia Death (ROD). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the Executive Budget or any existing funding to the Department's programs.**

The recent spread of the disease causing ROD on Hawaii Island threatens the State's most important tree and requires urgent action. Surveys conducted by the Department on Hawaii Island in 2016 estimated that 50,000 acres of ohia forest are affected by this disease. To date, surveys have not detected the disease on other islands. The Department is working closely with the HDOA, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Agriculture Research Service, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and others to understand ROD and mitigate its spread where possible. Due to the lack of knowledge about the disease, many questions urgently need to be answered to effectively manage the outbreak and inform the public.

Funds appropriated by the Legislature for research, prevention and mitigation would support actions prioritized and described in the ROD Strategic Response. Additionally, this appropriation will be used to leverage federal and private funds. The Department is willing to assist the HDOA as needed in managing an appropriation addressing ROD.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
And

House Committee on Agriculture
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

By

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1247 – RELATING RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chairs Lee and Creagan, Vice Chairs Lowen and DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection and House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1247, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is caused by two closely related fungal pathogens within the genus *Ceratocystis*. The disease was 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 50,000 acres in late 2016. Ohia is the dominant tree in at least 80% of Hawai'i's native forests, and 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, and drafted the interagency Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan in November 2016. Their efforts are limited by resources and by the

absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease. HB 1247 would appropriate the funds necessary to ramp up research and management efforts before this disease devastates Big Island forests, and spreads across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1247.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION & AGRICULTURE**

**FEBRUARY 7, 2017
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1247
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

Chairpersons Lee and Creagan and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1247. This bill appropriates general funds to support research on Rapid Ohia death (ROD) prevention and mitigation. The Department supports this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is known to infest at least 50,000 acres on the Big Island and continues to spread throughout that island and has not been found on other islands. It has left a devastating impact to the forests killing nearly 100% of the trees in infested areas. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) established a quarantine on August 25, 2015 to prevent its spread from the Big Island to the neighbor islands. This is under HDOA authority which enables the Department to create an interim rule to govern the transport of flora and fauna into and within the State to protect agriculture and the environment.

ROD is a serious disease of Hawaii's Ohia forests and the loss of these trees would have a devastating impact on our forest lands and natural resources. The purpose of this bill is to fund research to study the pathogen that causes ROD. This research is critically needed in order to move forward with the control and mitigation of this disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 12:06 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	No

Comments:

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**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
And House Committee on Agriculture
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, February 7, 2017 9 am
Room 325

Support for HB 1247 Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Lee and Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Lowen and Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1247, which appropriates funds for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death.

This frightening fungal disease threatens our beloved 'ohi'a lehua trees – a dominant species in native Hawaiian forests and culturally significant plant.

The fungus destroys essential watersheds, habitat for rare and endangered Hawaiian forest birds and other animals, and 'ohi'a lehua trees "mother trees" for seedlings to take root and grow. The fungus threatens traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, recreation, and the economy.

Please pass HB 1247 and save our 'ohi'a lehua forests. Do it for the keiki and generations to come, who deserve to enjoy the 'ohi'a lehua forests as we do. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www@conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





February 5, 2017

TIM VANDEVEER
Chair
MARIE STRAZAR
Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE
SEAN SMITH
Legislation Committee Co-Chairs

HB1247

Tuesday February 7, 2017 9:00 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection

Representative Richard Creagan, Chair
Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawaii supports HB1247 “Relating to Rapid Ohia Death” will provide funds to address the devastating impact of Rapid Ohia Death invasive species. **Passage of HB1247 is consistent with the DPH’s Environmental Wellbeing legislative priority for the 2017 Legislative Session to support legislation to address invasive species issues.**

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Tim Vandaveer* (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org)
Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i
/s/ *Marie (Dolly) Strazar* (hilomds@gmail.com)
Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i

/s/ *Margaret Wille* (margaretwille@mac.com)
/s/ *Sean Smith* (simashang@yahoo.com)
Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

PO Box 2041 Honolulu, HI 96805 □ (808) 596-2980 □ www.hawaiidemocrats.org □ info@hawaiidemocrats.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 7:48 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: yoshitol@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	No

Comments: Ohia is the building block of the native forest loosing more than we already lost is endangering the very character of Hawaii and the countless species dependent on that ecosystem

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 7, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1247
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Room 325
9:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Lee and Creagan, Vice Chairs Lowen and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees:

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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1247, which appropriates funds for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death

Watersheds are the lifeblood of our communities. It is important not just to agriculture but to our social and environmental health. The spread of rapid ohia death has been alarming and its' management before spreading to other islands is very critical. Many of the other islands depend on surface water for their drinking and irrigation needs. Loss of trees will severely impact watersheds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Committee on Agriculture
February 7, 2017
9:00 a.m., Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1247

Aloha Chairs Lee and Creagan, Vice Chairs Lowen, and DeCoite, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 1247, Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death**. The aim of this measure is to provide funding for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD).

Just two months ago, the ROD Strategic Response Plan was presented to the public and decision makers. Crafting the plan was an effort that involved more than 40 people from a variety of different agencies and organizations. Even with the plan, one of the questions that continues to arise is about the budget need. The lead agencies such as USDA ARS, USDA Forest Service, UH CTAHR, DLNR, and HDOA have provided tremendous financial and in-kind support for this effort, and many also have current funding requests to be able to increase their work on ROD. Private foundation funds have also played an important role in supporting the research and response work to-date. Therefore, the budget reflected in the ROD Strategic Response Plan assumes that whatever was previously provided by agencies will largely remain the same, or may increase slightly as core functions or needs are added to base operating budgets. Note that the plan does not include the cost of increased interisland quarantine work by HDOA, although it references the need to support the Interagency Biosecurity Plan. In particular, conducting risk assessments, gaining capacity and technology to address plant pathogens, and programs that increase our capacity to do interisland prevention work, are high priorities as related to ROD.

ROD is one of the most challenging and heartbreaking issues that we have ever worked on. The need for answers is paramount if we hope to protect 'ōhi'a on other islands, and craft a restoration plan for impacted areas. We ask for your support of HB 1247, which would support this work. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:58 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: alohapowers@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan powers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 4:37 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: akamaimom@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Felicia Cowden	Individual	Support	No

Comments: While Rapid Ohia Death is currently a problem isolated to the island of Hawaii, it benefits all islands for this problem to be contained and eliminated. Felicia Cowden Kilauea, Kauai

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:14 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: lberthold@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laura Berthold	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this. We need to research this disease and prevent the spread of it. Ohia is a keystone species. If this disease keeps spreading, we will loose this species as well as the native forest and all the species dependent on it. Ohia support our watershed as well.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 9:19 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: heidielana@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heidi Erhardt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 9:03 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: chris@mentzel.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Mentzel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:04 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 6:07 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a born and raised Mauian, business owner, taxpayer, Democrat, nature appreciator, and water drinker I strongly support giving funding towards prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death with HB1247. We need to better understand ROD and do everything in our power to stop its spread. Metrosideros polymorpha is an essential species in our watersheds and it'd be devastating to our ecology and water cycle if these trees all died throughout Hawaii... Considering the weight of what's at risk, please do all in your power to fund understanding, eliminating and containing this horrible blight. Arianna Feinberg

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: tracy.emills@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy E Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 2:28 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: dylanarm@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 12:03 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: deborah@imaginariums.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deborah Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 11:43 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: raphiell@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raphiell Nolin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
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Cc: sharedpleasures@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
vicki levin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Cc: alohalways@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanja Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: molivit@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Isabelle Olivit	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: ihemphi@live.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Denise Key	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:53 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: reneeariley@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Renee Riley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Appropriates funds to mitigate Rapid Ohia Death. Protect our aina.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:32 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: bmurphy420@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please, ban all GMOs!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 8:25 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Overbay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please, ban all GMO's.

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To: EEPtestimony
Cc: yoshitol@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshito L'Hote	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to save the main component of the native forest to preserve the character of Hawaii and all the species that depends on it

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 4, 2017 1:39 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/4/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 3, 2017 4:46 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 11:07 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: fernrosenstiel@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Fern Rosenstiel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 3:18 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: johnnaylor@kula.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John NAYLOR	Individual	Support	No

Comments: INVASIVE SPECIES CAN HAVE A GIANT IMPACT ON CULTURAL, AG, AND TOURISM AS WELL AS HEALTH & SAFETY OF RESIDENTS. \$\$\$ TAX \$\$\$ TO ERADICATE! PREVENTION IS KEY & CHEAPER BY FAR! IT WOULD BE AN EVEN BIGGER PROBLEM IF THE STUPID FERRY HAD BEEN APPROVED! SORRY , BUT IF THERE IS A FERRY EVER APPROVED IN HAWAII NEI, IT CAN BE PEDESTRIAN ONLY!!! NO VEHICLES! STOP THE SPREAD!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:12 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: breezybees808@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Briana Hurley	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, please vote to help protect this very important native species.

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LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 12:54 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: rbergstrom@surfrider.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/7/2017
Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael Bergstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE



HB1247
RELATING TO RAPID 'ŌHI'A DEATH
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Agriculture

February 7, 2017

9:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB1247. This measure would appropriate funds for research on the prevention and mitigation of Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD), the disease caused by the fungus, *Ceratocystis fimbriata*, which has prompted a state of emergency for Hawai'i's native 'ōhi'a forests.

Found nowhere else in the world, 'ōhi'a, or *Metrosideros polymorpha*, is a key component of Hawai'i's culture, ecology, and environment. As the first tree to reestablish after new lava flows, Native Hawaiians have developed a range of medicinal, spiritual, practical, and other uses for all parts of the plant. Many aspects of our islands' ecosystems also depend upon the unique characteristics of 'ōhi'a, and a number of endemic and often endangered species have evolved to form close relationships with what is still one of the most common trees in Hawai'i. Moreover, 'ōhi'a forests are recognized as critical to watershed protection and aquifer recharge, a growing concern given the anticipated impacts of an increasing population base, decreasing rainfall trends, and climate change.

This Keystone species now faces the critical threat of ROD, with the potential to eliminate the species across the Hawaiian archipelago. ROD has been observed killing off of vast tracts of 'ōhi'a trees across Hawai'i Island. On OHA's own property, Wao Kele o Puna (WKOP), ROD can be observed in approximately 60% of the 26,000-acre forest, the largest native, low-land forest left in Hawai'i.

To combat this threat, OHA has conducted widespread surveys of Wao Kele o Puna, attended or participated in a number of ROD forums, solicited community input on mitigation and prevention ideas, hosted ROD experts at OHA's community meetings to facilitate education, and encouraged preventative measures be taken by all inquiring to access WKOP. ROD mitigation and adaptation initiatives will be heavily considered in OHA's Comprehensive Management Plan for WKOP and OHA is currently in the process of granting the University of Hawai'i access to WKOP to conduct a variety of ROD research.

Given the imminent threat ROD poses on ‘ōhi‘a and all the cultural and natural resources that depend on it, this measure is a timely and necessary investment to protect one of our most iconic and significant plant species.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committees to **PASS** HB1247. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 6:33 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1247 on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM*

HB1247

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Feb 7, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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