

HB604 HD1

Measure Title: RELATING TO LANDSCAPING.

Report Title: Landscaping; Mosquito Breeding Habitat; DOH

Description: Requires DOH to create and maintain a list of plants and landscaping related structures or equipment that are known to be preferred habitats for mosquito breeding and prohibits use of these elements in public landscaping. Exempts routinely maintained botanical gardens. (HB604 HD1)

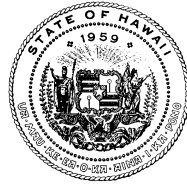
Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): LOWEN, BELATTI, CREAGAN, EVANS, HASHEM, JOHANSON, C. LEE, LOPRESTI, LUKE, MORIKAWA, NAKAMURA, NAKASHIMA, NISHIMOTO, OHNO, SAIKI, SAN BUENAVENTURA, SOUKI, TODD, WOODSON

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Written
Testimony Only

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 604, HD 1
RELATING TO LANDSCAPING**

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
Hearing Date: March 16, 2017 Room Number: 229
Time: 9:30 A.M.

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are a variety of plants that are known to be potential mosquito
2 breeding habitats due to their natural ability to collect water (e.g., bromeliads). DOH does not
3 have the expertise to create an all-encompassing list of "natural water collectors" and defers to
4 botanists with this expertise at the University of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and other
5 federal and state agencies. The time and effort to confer with subject matter experts to create
6 such a list is unknown.
- 7 **Department Testimony:** While the department supports the intent of this measure, we do not
8 believe the creation of a list of plants that foster the growth of mosquitoes would be the best
9 strategy in controlling mosquito breeding sites. The department would instead advocate for
10 proper groundskeeping as part of an overall landscape management practice. Although there are
11 plants that are more prone to become breeding sources for mosquitoes, almost any plant could
12 become a breeding habitat if it is not properly trimmed and managed. A small amount of water
13 collected within the plant structure can become a breeding source.

1 Plants are also not the only potential breeding source for mosquitoes. Rain gutters, low
2 lying areas, ponds, planters, drainage areas, tires, awnings, equipment or other objects that can
3 collect water also have the potential to become breeding sources. It is important to note that
4 these types of objects, including plants in general, can promote mosquito breeding with a very
5 small amount (less than a bottle capful) of water.

6 As part of our public education and outreach efforts to combat vector-borne diseases, the
7 department has stressed that the community should check their surrounding areas and the objects
8 mentioned above to take appropriate steps to reduce or eliminate standing water where
9 mosquitoes can breed. The department has prepared a checklist for eliminating mosquitoes at:
10 fightthebitehawaii.com/prevention/help-eliminate-mosquitoes/

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 11, 2017 12:56 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB604 on Mar 16, 2017 09:30AM*

HB604

Submitted on: 3/11/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 16, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

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, March 10, 2017 8:01 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: owen@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB604 on Mar 16, 2017 09:30AM

HB604

Submitted on: 3/10/2017

Testimony for CPH on Mar 16, 2017 09:30AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Owen Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose sb 605. The Department of Agriculture has the manpower, equipment, and training to find and correct mosquito breeding plants. Further mosquitoes breed wherever there is standing water.

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