

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**

**MARCH 16, 2017
11:25 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1239 SD1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

Chairpersons Lee and Creagan and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1239 SD1. 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.

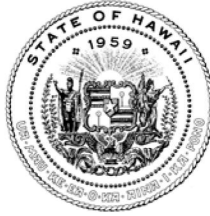
Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is known to infest at least 50,000 acres on the Big Island and continues to spread throughout that island and has not been found on other islands. It has left a devastating impact to the forests killing nearly 100% of the trees in infested areas. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) 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.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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**

**Thursday, March 16, 2017
11:25 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1239, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

Senate Bill 1239, Senate Draft 1 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 provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

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

House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 11:25 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

SB 1239 SD1 – RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 1239 SD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death.

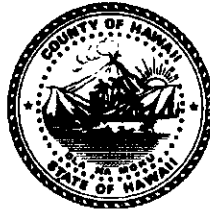
Rapid Ohia Death (ROD), is caused by two closely related fungal pathogens within the genus *Ceratocystis*. The disease was first identified in 2014, has spread extremely rapidly on the Big Island, from 15,000 acres of ohia forest infected by the disease in 2014, to 50,000 acres in late 2016. Ohia is 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 severally 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 Hawaii 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 distributed 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. SB 1239 SD1 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 SB 1239 SD1.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy, Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 14, 2017

Representative Chris Lee, Chair
Committee on Energy & Environmental
Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairs Lee, Creagan, and members:

**RE: SB 1239 SD 1
Relating to Rapid Ohia Death**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1239, SD1.

The way in which the ohia forests of the Big Island have been decimated cannot be overstated, and it is difficult to comprehend if not seen in person. It seems that one day there is a forest that people take for granted and assume will exist for millennia, and the next day there are barren trees comparable to a severe northern winter. Then the realization sets in that those trees will not regenerate in the spring, or ever again. It is a very sad situation.

Whatever funding the Legislature chooses to provide in SB 1239, SD1 will be a small price to pay to save what remains of this vital natural resource.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor



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

March 16, 2017

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

TESTIMONY ON SB 1239, SD1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Room 224
1:15 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 1239, SD1, 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.



Hawai'i Green Growth is a public-private partnership that catalyzes action across government, private sector and civil society to achieve Hawai'i's Aloha+ Challenge 2030 sustainability goals and serve as a model for integrated green growth

Board of Directors

Deanna Spooner

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Cooperative

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The Nature Conservancy

Mike Hamnett

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Department of Agriculture

Scott Seu

Hawaiian Electric Company

Ulalia Woodside

The Nature Conservancy

William J. Aila Jr.

Department of Hawaiian
Homelands

Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth

In Support of SB1239 SD1 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death House Committees on Energy & Environmental Protection and Agriculture

16 March 2017, 11:25 am, Room 325

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB1239 SD1 to appropriate funding for implementation of the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Strategic Response Plan.

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death is a devastating new fungal disease impacting native 'ōhi'a forests, priority watershed areas and cultural resources. Surveys conducted in 2016 estimate that 50,000 acres have been infected. Hawai'i Green Growth supports funding, research and a coordinated response effort to address this urgent threat as part of the broader Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (or the proposed Hawaii Invasive Species Authority) is leading the multi-agency effort to address Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death and other critical biosecurity threats that impact Hawai'i's economy, human health and safety, agricultural industry and environment.

Hawai'i Green Growth partners agreed that biosecurity, including **SB1239 SD1**, is an important priority to support implementation of Hawai'i's *Aloha+ Challenge 2030* sustainability goals. The *Aloha+ Challenge* is a joint leadership commitment launched by the State Legislature (SCR69), Governor, four County Mayors, Office of Hawaiian Affairs and Hawai'i Green Growth public-private partners. This statewide framework outlines six ambitious 2030 sustainability goals in the areas of clean energy, local food, natural resource management, solid waste, smart sustainable communities, and green education and workforce. The *Aloha+ Challenge* has been recognized nationally and internationally as model that can be scaled to support the implementation of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement.

With leadership and support from the State Legislature, Hawai'i hosted the first U.S. held IUCN World Conservation Congress with over 10,000 global partners from 190 countries in 2016. This bill is an opportunity to continue important local action on sustainable development and resiliency through implementation of the Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

As a public-private partnership, Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports **SB1239 SD1** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:11 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: djr@teamdeluz.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David S. De Luz, Jr.	Kukaiiau Ranch LLC	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 1239 SD1 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death
House Committee Energy and Environmental Protection
House Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 16, 2017, 11:25AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 1239 SD1 and a strong and coordinated response to the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) fungal disease that is threatening the dominant native tree species in the Hawaiian forest—a tree that is central to the forests' ecological, cultural and watershed values statewide.

We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) and the acute circumstances on Hawai'i island with this disease and other pests of the environment, agriculture, and human health and well-being. For more information about ROD, see the [ROD Strategic Response Plan](#) and www.rapidohiadeath.org.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death will be additive and not prevent the Legislature, the Administration and partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to the full range of pest issues across the islands. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council—or the proposed Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority ([HB1339/SB776](#))—is the appropriate multi-agency venue for this broader effort. This approach necessarily results in prioritization based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic harm, and the threat to the health and function of the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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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: Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:25 am
Room 325

In Support of SB 1239 SD 1 Relating to Rapid 'Ohi'a Death

Chair Lee, Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Lowen, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee, Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 1239, SD 1, which appropriates funds for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid 'Ohi'a 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 SB 1239 SD 1 and save our 'ohi'a lehua forests. Do it for the keiki and generations to come, who deserve to enjoy the 'ohi'a lehua forest 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





SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAII

MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, March 16, 2017 11:25PM Room 325

In Support SB1239 SD1 Relating to Rapid Ohia Death

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Members of the AEN Committee:

On behalf of our 12,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **strongly supports** SB1239 SD1 to appropriate funding to combat Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. This bill is crucial to the health of our native forests. We urge this funding to be dedicated in addition (and not in place of) the Department's funding request through the budget HB100.

What SB1239 will do

This bill will help the Department of Land and Natural Resources 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,



Marti Townsend
Director

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 3:43 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Understanding, informing the public of the correct information, and possibly finding some way to mitigate, is critical for this keystone species that is responsible for our very existence here on Hawai'i Island. The Rain follows the forest, and since I moved here in 1978, the rainfall in the the mauka area of Kona has already decreased by around 50% due to an extended drought. Giving our scientists and foresters all the tools they need is critical in this journey to support either the revival or the next species that is to come.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:25 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: michelematsuo@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
michele matsuo	Democratic Party Education and Environmental Caucuses	Support	Yes

Comments: Good Morning Chair Lee, Chair Creagan, and members of the Committees
 Thank you very much for this opportunity to testify and offer strong support regarding
 this measure. My name is Michele Matsuo. I am the Chair of the Democratic Party of
 Hawaii's Education Caucus and the designated testified for the Democratic Party of
 Hawaii's Environmental Caucus on Endangered Species and Endangered Species
 habitat. On Tuesday, March 14, the Environment, Energy and Resources Section of the
 Hawaii State Bar Association sponsored a statewide broadcast of a presentation on
 Rapid Ohia Death. The EER Bar Section will be working with the HSBA Real Property
 and Financial Services Section to provide the video link of that presentation to a broad
 audience statewide. The expansion of infected acreage on the Big Island is truly
 alarming because it appears to be geometric rather than incremental expansion. For
 now, we can only hope to slow the expansion and spread, as there is no known cure at
 this time. The impact on our watersheds will be catastrophic if we are unable to re-
 forest. Many of our endangered species live in and need Ohia. Decontamination at the
 trail entrances/exits appear to need to be mandated on the Big Island. More than just
 the State and County, this appears to be a problem so large that communities statewide
 may need to kokua. I ask you to pass this bill to provide what the State can. There is a
 50 member panel which confers regularly on this matter, and I will be seeking to join
 that group as a grassroots and community mobilizer, to start out of the box solutions to
 ending contamination and start the lengthy process for preparing millions of native trees
 to be cultivated and planted, because these appear to be what it is going to take along
 with information to all our visitors and citizens. Aloha Michele Matsuo Sent from my iPad

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:26 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: wmanonsen@consultant.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Anonsen	The Maritime Group, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:49 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM 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: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 10:03 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 14, 2017 9:54 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: tiare@hapahi.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/14/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Before the House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection & Committee on Agriculture
Thursday, March 16, 2017, 11:25 a.m., Room 325
SB 1239 SD 1: Relating to Rapid Ohia Death

Aloha Chair Lee & Chair Creagan, Vice Chair Lowen & Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the
Committees,

Please accept my testimony in strong support of SB 1239 SD 1. I am a property owner on the Big Island, and am very concerned about the rapid spread of the deadly fungus which is killing the Big Island's Ohia trees. So far, I have been lucky to still have many healthy Ohia trees on our property, but it may be only a matter of time until the majority of Ohias have been wiped out on the Island, much to the detriment of the Island's cultural practices, ecosystems, and groundwater reserves.

In addition to the Ohia's great cultural significance, the Ohia tree plays a vital role in replenishing the Island's groundwater supply. Ohia naturally collects water from the mists and rains in its leaves and moss on the trees, absorbs the water, and sends what it does not use down into the ground through its roots. Ohia essentially works like a catchment device which uses little water and sends the rest underground. As the Ohia dies off, the invasive strawberry guava trees take over. In contrast to the Ohia, strawberry guava absorbs water in its shallow roots, and does not aid in groundwater replenishment. Therefore, not only does the Island lose important habitat with the loss of the Ohia, the groundwater reserves will be increasingly reduced with the loss of the Ohia trees.

To protect the ecosystem and support Hawaii's cultural practices, I respectfully urge these committees to make an appropriation to help mitigate and prevent the spread of the rapid Ohia death.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Leslie Cole-Brooks

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 2:46 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: marilynwick@pobox.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marilyn Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Rapid Ohia Death has infested at least 50,000 acres on the Big Island and continues to spread throughout the island, killing nearly 100% of the trees in infested areas. Therefore I strongly support this bill.

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:17 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hawaiian Affairs Caucus	Democratic Party of Hawaii, Hawaiian Affairs Caucu	Support	Yes

Comments: The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii fully supports this bill that would provide appropriations for much needed critical research. It is necessary that this be done quickly to find a solution as this disease continues to result in dying Ōhi'a trees. We support the Ōhi'a Death Strategic Response Plan that was formulated in response to the potential catastrophic loss in diversity, structure, and function of the State's remaining native forests. Respectfully, Leimomi Khan, Chair

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KALIHI PALAMA HAWAIIAN CIVIC CLUB
email: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 1239, SD1, Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death

Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Committee on Agriculture

Hearing: Thursday, March 16, 11:25 a.m., State Capitol Conference Room 325

Rep. Chris Lee, Chair
Rep. Nicole E. Lowen, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection

Rep. Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Rep. Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair
Members, Committee on Agriculture

Aloha mai kakou

The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club strongly urges your committee to pass SB 1239, SD1 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, that would appropriate funds for research on prevention and mitigation of rapid 'ōhi'a death.

The State of Hawai'i has recognized that 'Ōhi'a is endemic to the islands of Hawai'i and is important to the fragile forest system. The disease currently impacts over 50,000 acres of 'ōhi'a forest on the island of Hawai'i. Nearly one hundred per cent of trees will die in already infected areas. As such in 2016, the rapid Ōhi'a Death Strategic Response Plan was formulated in response to the potential catastrophic loss in diversity, structure, and function of the State's remaining native forests.

Appropriations are essential to support critical research needed and the priorities of this plan. Every day that goes by without answers to the treatment of this disease means the death of more trees.

Please pass SB 1239 SD1.

Respectfully

(On-line testimony)

LEIMOMI KHAN
President

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 11:21 PM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: yappygrl1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/15/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Fujita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 16, 2017 9:01 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: mdeycaza@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 3/16/2017

Testimony for EEP/AGR on Mar 16, 2017 11:25AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mike deYcaza	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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