

SB 1239

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 13, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

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

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1239. 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
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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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, February 13, 2017
1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1239
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Senate Bill 1239 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.



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 13, 2017
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 1239

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 1239, Relating to Rapid 'ōhi'a Death.**

As this committee is aware, the multi-agency work on ROD has been unprecedented. 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. In crafting the ROD Strategic Response Plan budget, we had to assume that whatever was previously provided by agencies (in-kind staff time, equipment, vehicles, etc.) will largely continue to be provided, or would be added to agency requests in base operating budgets. We ask for the Legislature's clear and strong support for work on ROD which would not just help fund the work, but also help us convey its importance as we continue to apply for federal and private dollars.

Also, please note that the ROD Strategic Response Plan does not include the cost of increased interisland quarantine work by HDOA. Instead, 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. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 1239.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 13, 2017 at 1:15 p.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 – RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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



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

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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 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

13 February 2017, 1:15 pm, Room 224

Aloha Chair Gababrd, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth strongly supports SB1239 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, 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** and appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony.

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
SB 545, Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts

Hearing: Thursday, February 9, 2017

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Chair
Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair
and members of the Committee on International Affairs and the Arts

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair
and members of the Committee on Economic Development Tourism and Technology

Aloha,

The Kalihi Palama Hawaiian Civic Club submits testimony in strong support of SB 545, Relating to the Festival of Pacific Arts that would create a temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of Pacific Arts to plan for this historic event to be held in Honolulu from June 11 to June 27, 2020.

Hosting this event is competitive and highly sought after by various countries as a means to showcase and advocate for the sustainability of traditional cultural arts and practices while at the same time benefitting from an economic boost to a country's economy. In 2014, Hawai'i Senate Concurrent Resolution 57 HD1 supported Hawaii's bid to the Council of Pacific Arts and Culture for Hawaii to host the 2020 Festival of Pacific Arts. We won the bid.

Planning and organizing this event will require the support of the government of the State of Hawaii, private and community sectors, with linkages across sectors (tourism, health, education, public works, environment, agriculture and so forth) so as to assure an effective hosting process. The temporary commission on the thirteenth Festival of the Pacific Arts will bring together key government officials who have the authority to commit government resources in support of the Festival and to engage private and public sectors, including the numerous cultural organizations in Hawaii.

Strongly urge the passage of SB 545 and appropriations to support the Festival.

Respectfully

LEIMOMI KHAN
President



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, February 13, 2017 1:15 pm
Room 224

In Support of SB 1239 Relating to Biosecurity

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 1239, which appropriates funds for research on prevention and mitigation of Rapid Ohia Death.

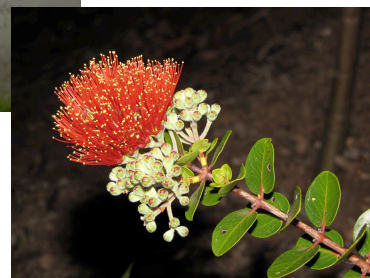
This frightening fungal disease threatens our beloved 'ohi'a lehua trees – a dominant species in native Hawaiian forests and culturally significant plant.

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 SB 1239 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



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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





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 13, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1239
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, 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.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii'i
Supporting S.B. 1239 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, February 13, 2017, 1:15PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 1239 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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'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 Hawaii'i Invasive Species Council—or the proposed Hawaii'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.

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HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS
Democratic Party of Hawaii
e-mail: leimomikhan@gmail.com

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hearing: Monday, February 13, 2017, 1:15 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 224

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

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges your committee to adopt SB 1239, Relating to the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death, that would appropriate funds for research on prevention and mitigation of rapid 'ōhi'a death.

We also supported HB1004 to provide funding to implement the rapid 'ōhi'a death strategic response plan. Funding will support seven strategic objectives in the areas of containment, early detection, rapid response, outreach, and restoration. As is indicated in HB 1004, the rapid 'ōhi'a death strategic response plan was formulated in 2016 in response to the potential catastrophic loss in diversity, structure, and function of the State's remaining native forests.

'Ōhi'a is endemic to the islands of Hawai'i. As such, we have an obligation to care for this tree. They protect the upper reaches of the State's critically important watersheds, which supply fresh water to downstream communities and agriculture and they serve as a food source to certain insects. In Native Hawaiian society, 'Ōhi'a was used in house and heiau construction, as well as to make poi boards, weapons, tool handles, statues and idols, seats for canoes, firewood, etc. The lehua (flowers) and liko lehua (leaf buds) were and continue to be used for lei. 'Ōhi'a also played a prominent role in the Pele legends. Today, thousands use the precious flower of lehua in their hula adornments.

Please appropriate the necessary funding to implement the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Strategic Response Plan as well as research on prevention and mitigation since everyday that we wait, more destruction is occurring and we fear for the demise of the 'Ōhi'a, Hawaii's own endemic tree.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN
Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 9:33 AM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Council Woman Sue Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is the most significant environmental threat to Hawaii Island's watershed. We seek your strong support for this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 6, 2017 12:15 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: fu_dog_5@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/6/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 9, 2017 7:28 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: cmanfredi@kaufarmandranch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/9/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 5, 2017 10:19 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: lberthold@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/5/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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 lose 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: Friday, February 3, 2017 1:35 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mmchau@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/3/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marian M. Chau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am testifying on my own behalf, but have several years professional experience in Hawaiian conservation, and I spearheaded the OhiaLove Campaign and Seed Storage Project in response to Rapid Ohia Death. ROD is a very serious threat to our forests, watersheds, and entire ecosystems, and unfortunately it is likely to continue spreading. It is critical that conservation and natural resource management agencies on all islands be prepared to rapidly respond to new detections.

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: Thursday, February 2, 2017 10:43 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: erinrutherford815@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/2/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rutherford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:33 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 2:25 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/1/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:33 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mkhan@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leimomi Khan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 7:27 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: pulermq@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RuthMarie Quirk	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 5:15 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM*

SB1239

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

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

Comments:

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To: AEN Testimony
Cc: audgereee@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1239 on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM

SB1239

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for AEN on Feb 13, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii. I am a resident of Makawao, Maui and am writing in support of SB1239. Rapid Ohia Death is devastating our native forests on the Big Island. We are doing everything we can to control the spread, and ensure that it does not migrate to other islands. It is imperative we dedicate resources to combat this threat to our native rainforests that produce our fresh drinking water. I humbly ask that you supporti SB1239. Mahalo

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Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

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LATE

SB1239 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, 02/13/17; 1:15pm; Rm.204

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, vice chair Riviere and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment. I am Annelle Amaral, president of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs and we support this bill. We are a kama`aina organization originally founded in 1918 as the Honolulu Hawaiian Civic Club by Delegate to Congress Kuhio to advocate for the passage of the Hawaiian Homes Bill then before the Congress. In time, and in response to the need, in 1959 the movement became an Association with currently sixty seven component clubs throughout Hawaii and in sixteen states on the continent.

Each year at an annual convention there is spirited discussion on issues-of-the-day facing native Hawaiians and native Hawaiian culture, and clubs prepare resolutions to address these topics of concern. Memorial and congratulatory resolutions are also submitted by individual clubs, but there are usually thirty to forty of general civic interest and importance.

In the 2016 convention a resolution of great concern was Resolution #16-33, *Urging the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Tourism Authority To Educate All Tour Companies, All Tourists, All Visitors and All Residents to Hawaii Island On the Rapid Ohia Death.*

The ohia lehua (*metrosideros polymorpha*) undoubtedly traveled to Hawaii with early waves of Polynesians and can also be found in other Pacific Islands establishing yet another solid link among Pacific Island peoples. The ohia lehua has many manifestations depending upon the environment, but under all conditions it is culturally and spiritually significant to Hawaiians as well as other Polynesians.

Ohia lehua was once prevalent as forests on thousands of acres on Hawaii Island especially, and to be confronted with dying forests is devastating to native Hawaiians. Today many Hawaiians see this loss as an echo of their own faded sovereignty.

We urge the State Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture to research this phenomenon and to provide public information notices, bulletins and inspections as an immediate first step to stop spreading the fungal pathogen (*ceratocystic fimbriata*) that carries the disease. Another step would include making travelers aware of their role in disease prevention by not carrying the plants and flowers from one destination to another.

We absolutely support SB 1239 and the legislature providing funds necessary to carry out a program of protection and eradication of “Rapid Ohia Death” through the network of relevant State agencies. We further urge a public relations program that will alert people to this disease that is killing the ohia lehua before there is a point of no return. The sooner the better.

Thank you for the opportunity to bring this to your attention. The Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs will do our share to help rid Hawaii of this disease.

Mahalo.

Contact: jalna.keala2@hawaiiantel.net