

SB229

Measure Title: RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL.

Report Title: Department of Health; Vector Control Branch; Permanent Full-Time Equivalent Positions; Appropriation (\$)

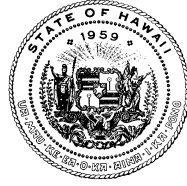
Description: Appropriates moneys for twelve permanent full-time equivalent positions in the vector control branch of the department of health.

Companion:

Package: None

Current Referral: CPH, WAM

Introducer(s): GABBARD, NISHIHARA, K. RHOADS, RUDERMAN, S. Chang, Espero, Green, Ihara, Kim, Riviere, Shimabukuro



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 229
RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL

SENATOR ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 1, 2017 Room Number: 229
Time: 9:00 A.M.

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The department supports the request for 12 additional Vector Control
2 positions to complete this stage in revitalizing the Vector Control Branch after the loss of 37
3 positions in the 2009 reduction-in-force. The cost breakdown for FY 18 is as follows: \$455,844
4 (12 FTE positions), \$181,152 (Other Current Expenses and Equipment) and \$105,000
5 (3 Vehicles). For FY 19: \$455,844 (12 FTE positions) and \$158,032 (Other Current Expenses).
6 **Department Testimony:** The department acknowledges and appreciates the support
7 demonstrated by the 2016 Legislature in authorizing 20 new Vector Control positions in our
8 efforts to rebuild the statewide Vector Control Branch. To date, the department has filled 16 of
9 the 20 positions authorized. In addition, we have established these positions and completed
10 reorganizations for all islands. We expect to fill over 95% of the total 51 positions by session
11 completion.

12 The department conducted a reassessment after learning which positions were being
13 authorized for each island and determined that 12 additional full-time equivalent positions would

1 be required to bring the statewide Vector Control program to an effective, efficient and
2 accountable program in light that the state has an all-year threat for mosquito-borne diseases.
3 The proposed staffing by island is as follows: Hawaii (2 positions), Maui (3 positions), Oahu (5
4 positions) and Kauai (2 positions).

5 Although the 20 positions have greatly increased the capabilities of the Vector Control
6 program, the 12 additional positions will provide an additional supervisor and needed inspectors
7 and workers to ensure sufficient coverage and reasonable workload and manpower. Of the 12
8 positions, a position is being requested to cover Molokai and Lanai and 2 clerical support
9 positions for the Vector Control Program Manager. Currently clerical support for the Vector
10 Control Branch and the Environmental Health Services Division (EHSD) office is being
11 provided by a branch secretary within EHSD, as the Vector Control Branch was not authorized
12 clerical positions and the Division secretary has accepted appointment as the Deputy Director's
13 administrative assistant. Although recruitment for the Division Secretary has been on-going,
14 finding a temporary replacement has proven to be very difficult.

15 We support the initiative as long as it does not replace our priorities requested in the
16 Executive Budget.

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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

KEKOA W. 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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH**

**Wednesday, February 1, 2017
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 229
RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL**

Senate Bill 229 proposes to appropriate funds to establish 12 permanent full-time positions in the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health (DOH). These positions would restore capacity and help ensure that the Vector Control branch can prevent new human or animal diseases, as well as potential vectors of new human or animal diseases, from becoming established within the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department currently facilitates the Hawaii Mosquito Working Group, and has been working closely with DOH staff to identify vector control related resource needs across the State. The Department recognizes that Vector Control is the State's first line of defense against new pest species and diseases, the presence of which would gravely impact Hawaii's public health, economy, environment, and quality of life. The 12 additional positions would increase on the ground monitoring, surveillance, and control operations, as well as essential administrative function.



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TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING SB 229, RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2017 ROOM 229

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC) is a partnership of private citizens and public agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

Dear Chair Baker and Vice Chair Nishihara:

Aloha. BIISC strongly supports SB229. The control of vectors of human disease is one of the oldest and most critical functions of government. The loss of DOH vector control positions over the years has hampered our state's ability to prevent the proliferation and spread of diseases such as dengue, which recently sickened hundreds of people on the island of Hawaii, and other diseases such as Chikungunya and Zika, which we have been lucky enough to avoid so far. Mosquitoes are not the sole vector of disease. Vector control positions may suppress populations of rats and slugs, vectors of Rat Lungworm Disease, and can respond to new accidental introductions of vectors like deer ticks, which carry Lyme disease, or sand flies which spread Leishmaniasis. All of these vectors and the diseases they carry are just one plane ride, one shipment from our shores. A highly trained, adequately staffed vector control program will, over time, be able to develop, test, and implement control techniques for a broad range of disease vectors, which simply cannot be accomplished by temp hires brought on after an outbreak occurs.

Funding these positions will allow our state to suppress the populations of disease vectors BEFORE an outbreak occurs, limiting the rate and distance of spread, and number of patients who become sick. Further, funding permanent positions will ensure that we have experienced, skilled employees able to take on teams of assistants when a serious outbreak does occur. These systems assure residents and visitors alike that their health is secure when spending time in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



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February 1, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

TESTIMONY ON SB 229
RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL

Room 229
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Nishihara, 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.

HFB strongly supports SB 229 that appropriates out of the general revenues \$741,996 and \$613,876 over the next two fiscal years for program costs and to establish twelve permanent full-time equivalent positions in the vector control branch of the department of health.

Public health necessitates the return of this DOH branch to full capacity so that Hawaii has adequate resources to prevent proliferation of disease-carrying organisms or agents and to respond quickly to potential outbreaks of disease.

Due to the recent dengue outbreak, local residents and tourists have learned the hard way how important it is to have an active and effective vector control unit to help combat mosquitoes that carry the disease and spread it to new areas and new victims.

Because they spend so much time outdoors tending their crops and livestock, farmers and ranchers across the state may be especially exposed and vulnerable to various organisms that could spread disease. We believe that the vector control program must be appropriately funded and that adequate permanent positions be established.

Thank you for your support of this important measure.



January 27, 2017

Testimony in Support of SB229

Members of the Senate Consumer Protection and Health Committee:

The Kohala Coast Resort Association (KCRA) is in full support of appropriating funding for 12 full time vector control agents in the Department of Health.

KCRA is a collection of master-planned resorts and hotels situated north of the airport which represents more than 3,500 hotel accommodations and an equal number of resort residential units. This is about 60 percent of the accommodations available on the Island of Hawai`i. Past dengue fever outbreaks have had an impact on our residents, our employees, and visitors to our island and we encourage the Legislature and the Department of Health to take proactive measures to ensure that the Department of Health is adequately funded in this mission critical area.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Donoho
Administrative Director

Patrick Fitzgerald, Hualalai Resort
Kelley Cosgrove, Fairmont Orchid, Hawai`i
David Givens, Hilton Waikoloa Village
Steve Yannarell, Waikoloa Beach Marriott Resort & Spa

Scott Head, Waikoloa Land Company
Robert Whitfield, Four Seasons Resort Hualalai
Rodney Ito, Mauna Lani Bay Hotel & Bungalows
Craig Anderson, Mauna Kea Beach Hotel and Hapuna
Prince Hotel

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 9:06 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: soysprout@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB229 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM

SB229

Submitted on: 1/25/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia King	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support this bill. Vector Control is integral to the preservation of our economy, public health, environment and quality of life in Hawaii, and these positions will help restore the function of the branch.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2017 9:03 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jmuir@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB229 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM*

SB229

Submitted on: 1/25/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jeff muir	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Thursday, January 26, 2017 12:55 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB229 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM*

SB229

Submitted on: 1/26/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

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

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, January 30, 2017 6:05 PM
To: CPH Testimony
Cc: jania34@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB229 on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM*

SB229

Submitted on: 1/30/2017

Testimony for CPH on Feb 1, 2017 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Jani	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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