



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 23, 2017 at 1:45 p.m.

By

Donald O. Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

And

Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean
College of Tropic Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

SCR 160 – REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROVIDE
INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATURE ON POSSIBLE TECHNIQUES TO
ELIMINATE MOSQUITOS FROM HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Riviere, and members of the
Committees:

On behalf of the University of Hawai'i, we would like to submit comments on SCR 160.

The factual basis described in the preamble in this resolution regarding mosquito
elimination and the myriad of positive effects that area-wide mosquito management
would have in Hawai'i is sound.

Faculty and staff at UH Mānoa and UH Hilo are already heavily involved with ongoing
investigations of integrative pest management techniques that have potential to
eliminate mosquitoes from Hawai'i (e.g. http://www.allianceforglobaldevelopment.org/uploads/8/8/3/7/88378936/report_on_mosquito_free_workshop.pdf , <http://www.cpc-foundation.org/news-and-videos.html>). This
involvement includes communication with other State, Federal, and private
organizations as to the feasibility and impacts (e.g. environmental, social, cultural) of
eventual small- and large-scale application of identified techniques.

Faculty and staff time in this current investment are non-trivial, especially for faculty and
staff specialists in the field of mosquito control who are already fully committed to
teaching programs, as well as to finding long-term financial support for research
programs.

The UH Hilo College of Agriculture, Forestry and Natural Resource Management
(CAFNR) suggests broadening the language of the resolution to include all of UH
faculty and staff with relevant research and academic expertise as responsible entities,
as well as additional organizations that are already heavily involved (e.g. DLNR).

There are many other faculty at UH with expertise in the matters relating to mosquito control. It would be more efficient if UH Hilo be requested to fulfill this request to create a mosquito control feasibility study in Hawai'i, in addition to UH Mānoa, CTAHR and other State agencies as indicated in the language of the Resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

LATE

Before the Senate Committees on
HIGHER EDUCATION
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Thursday, March 23, 2017
1:45 P.M.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 160
REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROVIDE INFORMATION
TO THE LEGISLATURE ON POSSIBLE TECHNIQUES TO ELIMINATE
MOSQUITOS FROM HAWAII

Senate Concurrent Resolution 160 requests that the University of Hawaii evaluate possible methods to achieve mosquito eradication in the State and provide a summary report to the legislature. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this resolution and offers the following comments.**

Mosquitos are not native to Hawaii, and their presence in the islands adversely impacts the public health and quality of life of our citizens, and threatens our unique native bird fauna. Mosquitos also vector human diseases, including Zika virus, dengue, chikungunya, and others. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which is administered by the Department, recently adopted HISC Resolution 17-2, recognizing landscape-scale control of mosquitos to be an important, cross-sectoral goal, and encouraging the evaluation and implementation of technologies that mitigate both wildlife and human health risks associated with mosquitos.

The Department currently facilitates the Statewide Mosquito Working Group, which is comprised of relevant State and Federal agencies and institutions which contribute to mosquito surveillance, control or research. In addition to the Department, representatives from the Hawaii Department of Health, Hawaii Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii at Manoa, University of Hawaii at Hilo, John A. Burns School of Medicine, HISC, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species, American Bird Conservancy, Department of Defense, United States (U.S.)

Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and National Park Service form the working group.

The Department notes that this issue is broad in scope and may not adequately be addressed by requesting information from the University of Hawaii's College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources alone. The current research on landscape-scale control of mosquitos that vector avian malaria, for example, is being completed within the University's College of Natural Sciences. Many of the initial discussions on potential control technologies relating to avian malaria vectors have been led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, while discussions relating to human health vectors must include the Hawaii Department of Health.

The Department suggests amending this resolution to include the Statewide Mosquito Working Group as an appropriate cross-sector entity to investigate and evaluate control techniques that may mitigate both human and wildlife health risks associated with mosquitos.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

LATE

AMENDED LATE TESTIMONY

Personal Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education

And

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Thursday, March 23, 2017; 1:45 pm

By

J. Kenneth Grace,

College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

SCR 160 – REQUESTING THAT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I PROVIDE
INFORMATION TO THE LEGISLATURE ON POSSIBLE TECHNIQUES TO
ELIMINATE MOSQUITOS FROM HAWAII

Chairs Kahele and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Kidani and Riviere, and members of the
Senate Committees on Higher Education and on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to offer comments on SCR 160. Although I serve as
Associate Dean in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University
of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am offering personal testimony today.

The issues with mosquitoes and the possible approaches to eradication described in
SCR 160 are sound and worthy of investigation for use in Hawai'i. Researchers in
multiple units of the University of Hawai'i and in other state agencies such as the
Department of Land and Natural Resources are currently conducting research on
approaches to mosquito control. I understand that an interagency working group is in
place, coordinated by the DLNR.

Although CTAHR and CAFNRM are specifically mentioned in SCR 160, neither of these
two UH units is heavily involved in these ongoing research efforts. Other UH units that
currently have a greater investment in this research area include the UHM Pacific
Biosciences Research Center, UHH School of Pharmacy, and UHH College of Natural
Resources.

Although there is apparently an interagency working group already in place, if the
Senate would like to have more information on this important area of research, I
suggest amendment of SCR 160 to delete specific mention of CTAHR and CAFNRM,
and instead request that the University of Hawai'i coordinate with the Department of
Land and Natural Resources to collect, evaluate, and provide the requested information.

This will allow the university to designate the appropriate units to lead this effort.

The suggested amended language is attached **and is clarified from my earlier
submitted testimony on SCR 160.**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017, the House of Representatives concurring, that the University of Hawai'i, ~~through its College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management,~~ is requested to investigate techniques that can be used to eliminate mosquitoes from Hawaii, the estimated cost of establishing a statewide mosquito eradication program using identified techniques, and the expected environmental impacts of such a program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawai'i is requested to coordinate with the Department of Land and Natural Resources to submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2018; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; ~~Chancellor~~President of the University of Hawai'i System; ~~Dean of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources~~Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa; ~~Dean of the College of Agriculture, Forestry, and Natural Resource Management~~Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo; Chair of the Department of Land and Natural Resources; and Deputy Director of the Department of Health's Environmental Health Administration.

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 3:40 PM
To: HRE Testimony
Cc: floyd@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR160 on Mar 23, 2017 13:45PM

SCR160

Submitted on: 3/22/2017

Testimony for HRE/AEN on Mar 23, 2017 13:45PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Floyd A. Reed	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Both the Reed lab in the biology department at UH Manoa and the Sutton lab in the biology department at UH Hilo are developing and conducting research on mosquito control technology for use in Hawai'i. Yet these departments are not in the university units that are mentioned in this resolution. Also, there are many other individuals both within the university system and across many agencies in Hawai'i that are already working on this, again not in the units mentioned in the wording of the resolution. There is already an inter-agency mosquito control working group currently headed by Cynthia King of DLNR that is probably the most appropriate entity to conduct the fact finding work and recommendations described in this resolution.

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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