



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

LATE

March 24, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SCR 69/SR 26
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO DOCUMENT AND COLLECT DATA IDENTIFYING ECONOMIC,
ENVIRONMENTAL, AND REGULATORY CONSEQUENCES OF CROP
DEGRADATION CAUSED BY INVASIVE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES IN HAWAII

Room 224
1:20 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.

HFB strongly supports SCR 69/SR 26, which requests HDOA to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii.

Hawaii's agriculture industry is vital to the State's economy. Increased self-sufficiency is a priority in the State but currently, farmers and ranchers suffer from the intense burdens of high overhead production costs and a continued battle against not only invasive species, but also endangered species. In order for farmers and ranchers to be viable and provide the food, fiber and energy that is the cornerstone of self-sufficiency, they must be able to contain their costs of production. All of these outside hurdles make this impossible.

Invasive crop pests and endangered species threaten the viability of farming. Throughout Hawaii, farmers are struggling to address crop loss resulting from invasive pests or endangered species, especially when there is no established or accepted method to control them. For example, the Rose Ringed Parakeet threatens various crops on Kauai, including lychee and rambutan. The Nene Goose has destroyed countless Taro crops on Kauai and has even forced a Kamuela farmer on the island of Hawaii to shut down his farm. Hawaii's farming is clearly being threatened.

Most farmers and ranchers are not trained wildlife biologists, university researchers, or economists who can document the economic and agricultural harms caused by these damaging pests. Farmers and ranchers rely upon the expertise of the Federal, State, and County governments to provide a unified effort on how to address issues such as these.

HFB strongly believes that SCR 69/SR 26 provides a holistic approach and encourages a solution to this persistent problem that threatens the viability of Hawaii's agriculture. Through SCR 69/SR 26, the HDOA task force will provide vital documentation of economic, environmental, and regulatory consequences, population assessments, and statewide best management protocols to confront these crop pests which seem to be unrecognized or unnoticed by governmental agencies as threatening our agricultural businesses. If the State truly supports Hawaii's agricultural industry, then measures such as SCR 69/SR 26 need to be implemented for this economic sector to thrive toward sustainability and food security.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 12:56 PM
To: AEN Testimony
Cc: darakawa@lurf.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR69 on Mar 24, 2017 13:20PM



SCR69

Submitted on: 3/24/2017

Testimony for AEN on Mar 24, 2017 13:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments: The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) supports SCR 69 and SR 26, which requests the Department of Agriculture to convene a task force to document and collect data identifying economic, environmental and regulatory consequences of crop degradation caused by invasive and endangered species in Hawaii.

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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