

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 16, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2046 HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

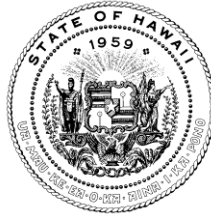
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2046 HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department for outreach and education to West Hawaii county regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants. The Department supports the intent of this bill provided it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

Through the Plant Quarantine Branch and Plant Pest Control Branch, the Department works diligently with the Hawaii community to provide outreach and education on various invasive pests. The Department also works closely with the Hawaii Ant Lab, based on Hawaii Island, to provide detection, treatment, and outreach on the little fire ant to both agriculturalists and the public statewide. Resources to provide additional education would be helpful to increase the efforts in West Hawaii county.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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 Committee on
FINANCE**

**Friday, February 16, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2046, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2046, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for outreach and education efforts in west Hawaii county regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department is a collaborator on biosecurity issues with HDOA, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Little fire ant is recognized in the Biosecurity Plan as a serious threat to human health and agriculture in Hawaii, and is primarily managed by HDOA in collaboration with the Hawaii Ant Lab, a project of the University of Hawaii, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit.

Providing funds to increase the capacity at the HDOA Plant Pest Control Branch is described in Biosecurity Plan action item PosTifs1.2. Passing this measure would directly support implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The full Biosecurity Plan is available for review at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/hibp/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
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

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

February 14, 2018

Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 308
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2046, HD 1 Relating to Little Fire Ants
Hearing Date: 02/16/18 – 2:00 pm; House Conference Room 308

This testimony is in support of HB 2046, HD1, but first I want to thank you for the time and energy that you and your colleagues have devoted to invasive species in general, and to little fire ants in particular. A year ago, the Council of Mayors identified invasive species as a top priority that deserved everyone's attention. Our best efforts at the county level are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that the State, counties, Feds, and private sector work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems. This Legislature really stood up last year, and hopefully will do even more this year.

With the possible exception (so far) of the parakeet problem, it seems that Hawai'i County has suffered a disproportionate share of the damage caused by invasive species, including rapid ohia death, little fire ants, coqui frogs, coffee berry borer, and probably others. However, all our islands, and all our constituents, are at risk. My primary request to you would be "Please don't give up." As a county, we do not have the resources or expertise to fight these devastating invaders on our own. We need as much assistance from the State as you can offer.

Particularly with respect to little fire ants, it sometimes seems that we have thrown in the towel. This must not happen—it is a horrific species that causes great pain in humans and has been reported to cause blindness in dogs, cats, pigs, and horses. We have to make the effort to fight back, and HB 2046, HD1 is a foot in the door, in a geographic area that may still be salvageable. Please provide as much funding as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, and let's move forward.

While I would defer to others as to how precious dollars should be allocated, I strongly endorse the investment of funds in combatting little fire ants, and therefore urge passage of HB 2046, HD 1.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
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Vice Chair: Planning Committee and
Agriculture, Water & Energy
Sustainability Committee

County of Hawaii

Hawaii County Council

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Representative Chris Lee
Chair, Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

January 29, 2018

Re: In Support of House Bill 2046, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
Scheduled to be heard by EEP on Tuesday, 01-30-18 8:30AM in House conference room 325

Aloha Chair Lee and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 2046, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for outreach and education efforts in West Hawai'i County regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants (LFA).

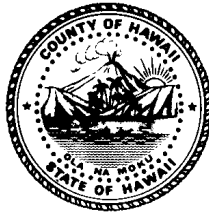
Having lived in the District of Puna for decades, and now working as a representative for the people there, I am intimately familiar with the difficulties introduced by the presence of these ants. Residents can no longer enjoy their own lawns and yards without being subject to bites ranging from irritating to debilitating. Beloved pets have gone blind from being attacked by the ants. Finally, the agriculture industry has suffered financial losses due to the ants turning up in potted plants. I have personally observed the increasing number of LFA in West Hawai'i.

Providing more funding to the Department of Agriculture to fight this little pest is a very important step towards preserving the peace and comfort of our unique island home. I do not hesitate to support any measure to reduce the population of the LFAs, or to prevent them from thriving elsewhere. Please consider the positive impacts that passing this bill will have on our environment and economy, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
(808) 887-2069

Email: tim.richards@hawaiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water & Energy

Vice Chair: Committee on
Environmental Management

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
District 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

February 14, 2018

House Committee on Finance
Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Honorable Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

Email: repluke@capitol.hawaii.gov

Email: repcullen@capitol.hawaii.gov

RE: **Support of HB2046 HD1**
Hearing Date/Time: February 16, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

Dear House Representatives:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2046, HD1** which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for outreach and education efforts for West Hawai'i in the County of Hawai'i regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants (LFA).

The passing of and the implementation of this bill is critical to the livelihood of our residents and visitors alike as LFA, along with other invasive species, are wreaking havoc in our agriculture and tourism industries – our island's biggest economic drivers, and I therefore strongly urge the enactment of HB2046 HD1.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

TIM RICHARDS
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 10:23:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carolyn Dillon | Little Fire Ant HUI | Support | No |

Comments:

Little Fire Ant HUI is a citizen advocacy group based in West Hawaii. We STRONGLY support HB2046. Outreach is a cornerstone of any public hazard and this Bill would go some distance to alerting our community of the LFA threat. West Hawaii is pervasively infested yet awareness of this threat is extremely low. Enclosed is a letter from a resident in East Hawaii sharing LFA realities that bode ill for the West side and our

entire state if awareness remains low and LFA are allowed to continue to spread.



BIISC
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RE: HB2046 Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee would like to express our support for HB2046, which would establish an HODA position in West Hawaii to respond to little fire ant (LFA).

The threat that little fire ants pose to the environment, economy, and way of life in Hawaii cannot be overstated. Successful treatment in infested areas can take a year or more, and in East Hawaii, where the ants have been established for 30 years, maintaining an ant-free property requires treatment *in perpetuity* as residents must regularly apply barriers and monitor their properties to prevent re-infestation. Already, residents have told us of friends and neighbors who have moved away, unable to live with the constant stings.

A 2015 report by the University of Hawaii predicted that without serious intervention on the Big Island, little fire ants will cost the agricultural industry \$6 billion over the next 30 years. Farmers in Puna report often that they are unable to find workers to harvest when the stinging ants fall from trees onto the faces and the eyes of pickers. LFA carry with them their own food sources: plant pests like aphids, mealy bugs, and whiteflies, a constant bane to farmers and gardeners that bring additional costs for control. In other Pacific islands, farmers have abandoned their ancestral farms due to LFA infestation.

For the last two years, we have provided support and staff to West Hawaii for issues relating to little fire ant. We fear for the coffee industry in Kona, as LFA have begun to take hold of coffee orchards from Holualoa down to Captain Cook. With the committed assistance of West Hawaii residents, we have pursued an aggressive outreach campaign to alert residents to the threat and hopefully avert complete infestation. However, we are beyond our capacity to provide assistance to meet the level of demand. Just today, a community member in Kona requesting a workshop to treat LFA with her neighbors had to be scheduled for May, as we are so booked that we cannot provide staff or resources before then. West Hawaii is in immediate need of a dedicated staff member who can work with farmers, nurseries, and the public to assist with controlling this dangerous pest.

We strongly support HB2046, and we look forward to collaborating with and supporting this position in West Hawaii to provide a more comprehensive solution to little fire ants on Hawaii Island.

Franny Kinslow Brewer
Communications Director



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February 16, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2046, HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 308
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, 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.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 2046, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for outreach and education efforts in West Hawaii county regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree that immediate measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 2:48:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melodie Aduja | OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawaii | Support | No |

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Friday, February 16, 2018

2:00 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 308

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 2046 HD1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

To the Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair; the Honorable Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Committee ("OCC") Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill No.2046 HD1 relating to an appropriation to the Department of Agriculture for the eradication of Little Fire Ants.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of House Bill No 2046 HD1 and supports its passage.

House Bill No.2046 HD1 is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for outreach and education efforts in West Hawaii county regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants.

The DPH Platform states that "[w]e support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at the point of entry. (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-113)).

Given that House Bill No.2046 HD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for outreach and education efforts in West Hawaii county regarding the detection and treatment of little fire ants, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ **Melodie Aduja**

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Tel.: (808) 258-8889



Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii
PO Box 632
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

February 14, 2018

House Committee / Finance

Chair Representative Sylvia Luke
Vice Chair Representative Ty Cullen

RE: HB 2046 Relating to Invasive Species

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2046 Relating to Invasive Species, on behalf of the Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii (LICH) and its Association Member, Hawaii Island Landscape Association (HILA). The Little Fire Ant (LFA) is gaining an ever-expanding foothold in West Hawaii and poses a serious threat to residents and tourists. It is only a matter of time before LFAs infest Oahu which will pose a threat to the entire Hawaii State Visitor Industry.

The appropriation of \$50,000 barely scratches the surface to fulfil the needs for education and treatment. The board of directors of LICH and HILA would respectfully encourage the EEP Committee to consider an appropriation of \$100,000 OR MORE.

Thank you for your efforts to protect our communities from LFAs, surely one of the most dangerous of invasive species to reach our shores.

Sincerely

Garrett Webb

Executive Director / LICH
Advisor to the Board / HILA

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 3:54:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy Redfeather | Ka Ohana O Na Pua | Support | No |

Comments:

Little Fire Ants are moving into West Hawai'i at a rapid rate. Little Fire Ants, if left untreated will eventually totally disrupt tourism, property values, agriculture, and our quality of life. West Hawai'i needs support from the Legislature to effectively deal with the realities of public education and outreach at such a massive scale. West Hawai'i has a very effective but unfunded Hawai'i Little Fire Ant Hui (Hlunite.com)

Funding would ensure that the work will get done for the community of West Hawai'i. Mahalo to Representative Lowen for her ongoing support and kokua on this topic.

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 1:33:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maki Morinoue | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha

I am extremely concern for the future of our...now islands that have LFA and no budget to help stop them. This no longer will be BUT is hurting our economy, native species and harming citizens. Imagine Hawaii with not tourist, no move winter birds...do not kill this bill please.

Mahalo for your time.

Maki

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 3:50:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| david wiseman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It is encouraging to learn of Representatives of the people working for the common good, such as Rep. Nicole Lowen and others. The invasive species can be so devastating for the island's quality of life if no proactive measures are taken.

David Wiseman

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 3:56:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Una Greenaway | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Chairperson Luke and Vice Chair Cullen

Please approve this bill and appropriate the funds to fight Little Fire Ant in West Hawaii. We still have a chance here in W. Hawaii to make an impact on this most devastating pest. Kona Coffee farmers are especially impacted, as the trees can become impossible to pick the coffee. The LFA rain down on whomever is harvesting the coffee. Please protect our heritage crop,our people and our pets.

Mahalo, Una Greenaway

Coffee farmer, Captain Cook

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/14/2018 11:44:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Malia Hayes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support funding Little Fire Ant outreach in the proposed amount of \$50,000 at a minimum. Hawaii needs to implement the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan now to prevent health risks, protect our way of life, our unique biota and ecosystems, and our economy. Dodging “raining” biting little fire ants from trees while outside and fighting to keep them out of our houses, beds and stored clothing is NOT an option. People cannot live that way. Let’s solve this problem now before it becomes very costly to control or worse - uncontrollable.

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 1:47:57 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebecca Villegas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2018 5:56:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dale Sandlin | Hawaii Cattlemens Council | Support | Yes |

Comments:

LATE

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 5:26:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Adrienne Hale | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The time to act is now. Little fire ants, if allowed to spread will be devastating to our farms, families, communities, and a threat to our states economy. On behalf of many concerned citizens, I ask that you support this bill.

LATE

HB-2046-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2018 1:57:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/16/2018 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bobby Howard | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Controlling fire ants is one of the most important things on our environmental agenda at this point. Seems like we should be putting as much effort into it as possible. I've personally dealt with these pests, as have my gardening students at the local art center. Hearing kids cry out when bitten is a terrible thing. We need better education about this issue, and we need to work together to find solutions. It's going to take the whole community.