

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2046
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2046 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
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
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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION**

**JANUARY 30, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

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

Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2046 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.



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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January 29, 2018

Representative Chris Lee
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
Hawai'i State Capitol

Dear Chair Lee and Committee Members:

Re: HB 2046 Relating to Little Fire Ants
Hearing Date: January 30, 2018

This testimony is in support of HB 2046, 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. But 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 pets and horses. We have to make the effort to fight back, and HB 2046 is a foot in the door. Please provide as much funding as you can manage, broaden the initiative if you think it appropriate, and let's move forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



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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



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection
January 30, 2018
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2046

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 2046, *Relating to Invasive Species***. The aim of this measure is to provide funds to HDOA for outreach and education on Little Fire Ant detection and control in West Hawai‘i.

As LFA continue to spread on Hawai‘i island, we sometimes find ourselves working most where the problem is worst. There are still many West Hawai‘i communities that don’t have LFA yet, and they need extra support. The Hawai‘i Ant Lab and Big Island Invasive Species Committee continue to try to work island-wide, but still more needs to be done. In 2017 the LFA Outreach Working Group also worked with Carolyn Dillon of the LFA Hui during the annual Spot the Ant, Stop the Ant campaign, and we greatly appreciate her involvement and help. CGAPS is not advocating a particular recipient for these funds, as there are several that can focus efforts on West Hawai‘i. Mahalo for your consideration of HB 2046.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



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

January 30, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

TESTIMONY ON HB 2046
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 325
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Lowen, 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, 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.



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

January 29, 2018

House Committee / Energy and Environmental Protection

Chair Representative Chris Lee

Vice Chair Representative Nicole Lowen

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

Submitted on: 1/26/2018 4:48:04 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery Ass.	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 9:31:36 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 9:19:51 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joan Gannon	West Hawaii CHC	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2046

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:08:08 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:24:43 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The attached Economic Analysis of the impacts of Little Fire Ant are well known. East Hawai'i, the Hamakua Coast and Puna, are blanketed with LFA. Kona sites are spreading rapidly mainly because there are little "resources" for control and prevention (public education) available. What we don't stop in Kona will reach every island eventually. We must see that this insect is one of the worst in the world according to Biologist E.O. Wilson. After hearing him speak at the Aspen Environment Forum in 2012 I understood the severity and understood the deep reach of the impacts of this insect. Hopefully the \$50,000 will be used for a position, perhaps a Hawai'i Ant Lab position for the west side of Hawai'i. We need people and resources if we are ever to create impactful programs. If not, property values, all agriculture, quality of life, tourism, will be a distant memory. Our children and children's children will not be able to continue to live here, as has happened in the South Pacific.

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:39:51 PM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clyde Platt		Support	No

Comments:

I write to support the provision of funding for the outreach and education proposed in HB2046. Growing infestations of Little Fire Ants on the western side of the island cry for a more localized government-public partnership to effectively quell and slow them. Personnel and resources localized in West Hawaii are instrumental for that partnership from the perspectives of economy, efficiency, and effectiveness. Time is of the essence to provide for them.

I

HB-2046

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 5:24:05 AM

Testimony for EEP on 1/30/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teresa Parsons		Support	No

Comments: