

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 604, HD 1
RELATING TO LANDSCAPING**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: March 1, 2017 Room Number: 308
Time: 1:00 P.M.

1 **Fiscal Implications:** There are a variety of plants that are known to be potential mosquito
2 breeding habitats due to their natural ability to collect water (e.g., bromeliads). DOH does not
3 have the expertise to create an all-encompassing list of "natural water collectors" and defers to
4 botanists with this expertise at the University of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture and other
5 federal and state agencies. The time and effort to confer with subject matter experts to create
6 such a list is unknown.

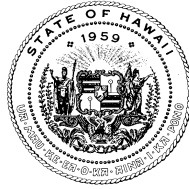
7 **Department Testimony:** While the department supports the intent of this measure, we do not
8 believe the creation of a list of plants that foster the growth of mosquitoes would be the best
9 strategy in controlling mosquito breeding sites. The department would instead advocate for
10 proper groundskeeping as part of an overall landscape management practice. Although there are
11 plants that are more prone to become breeding sources for mosquitoes, almost any plant could
12 become a breeding habitat if it is not properly trimmed and managed. A small amount of water
13 collected within the plant structure can become a breeding source.

1 Plants are also not the only potential breeding source for mosquitoes. Rain gutters, low
2 lying areas, ponds, planters, drainage areas, tires, awnings, equipment or other objects that can
3 collect water also have the potential to become breeding sources. It is important to note that
4 these types of objects, including plants in general, can promote mosquito breeding with a very
5 small amount (less than a bottle capful) of water.

6 As part of our public education and outreach efforts to combat vector-borne diseases, the
7 department has stressed that the community should check their surrounding areas and the objects
8 mentioned above to take appropriate steps to reduce or eliminate standing water where
9 mosquitoes can breed. The department has prepared a checklist for eliminating mosquitoes at:
10 fightthebitehawaii.com/prevention/help-eliminate-mosquitoes/

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

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March 1, 2017
1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 604, H.D. 1
RELATING TO LANDSCAPING

House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** the intent of H.B. 604, H.D. 1 that requires Department of Health to create and maintain a list of plants that are preferred habitats for mosquito breeding. Prohibits use of plants that are preferred habitats for mosquito breeding from being used in plans, designs, and specifications for new or renovated landscaping of any building, complex of buildings, facility, complex of facilities, or park developed by the State or counties with public moneys. Requires all plants that provide a preferred habitat for mosquito breeding that are currently used in the landscaping of state-owned building, complex of buildings, facility, complex of facilities, or park to be removed within 5 years of enactment. Exempts botanical gardens.

The DOT currently coordinates vector control issues with the DOH while actively supporting and participating in implementing plans when monitoring or changes to our landscape areas are needed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.