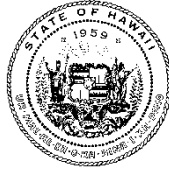


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



SARAH ALLEN
ADMINISTRATOR
MARA SMITH
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR

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TESTIMONY
OF
SARAH ALLEN, ADMINISTRATOR
STATE PROCUREMENT OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
HEALTH

February 9, 2017, 8:30 AM

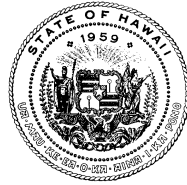
HOUSE BILL 604
RELATING TO LANDSCAPING

Chair Belatti, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill 604. The State Procurement Office's (SPO) comments are limited to SECTION 1 of the bill amending HRS §103D by adding a section prohibiting plants that are preferred mosquito breeding habitats from being used in public landscaping.

The SPO is not in opposition of this bill, however, feels that SECTION 1, page 1, lines 4 to 17, and page 2, lines 1 to 4 should not be included in HRS §103D.

The Hawaii Public Procurement Code (Code) is the single source of public procurement policy that should be kept streamlined, rather than a receptacle for all department's specific requirements. As such, the SPO believes the intent of this measure would be more effective to require these detailed specifications to be set forth within the confines of the Hawaii Building Code, Part II in the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 107 titled "Public Improvements." The Hawaii Building Code details specifications for public works construction, including prohibitions, and will provide for a proper mechanism for oversight.

Thank you.



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Testimony COMMENTING on HB 604
RELATING TO LANDSCAPING

REPRESENTATIVE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: February 9, 2017 Room Number: 329
Time: 8:30 A.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.