

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 Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Tuesday, February 6, 2018
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2124
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 2124 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii, Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, to support mitigation of little fire by the Hawaii Ant Lab. **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 the University of Hawaii, 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 the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) in collaboration with the Hawaii Ant Lab, a project of the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The Hawaii Ant Lab current employs approximately six full-time equivalent positions that work statewide. In previous years, the Hawaii Ant Lab has relied on competitive awards from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and funding from HDOA, though sufficient funding has not been available to meet the programmatic needs of the lab. In particular, the lab does not currently have capacity to meet the demand for outreach and assistance with little fire ant issues in West Hawaii.

Providing funds to provide stability to the Hawaii Ant Lab is described in Biosecurity Plan action item PosTifs1.11. 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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT AND
HIGHER EDUCATION**

**FEBRUARY 6, 2018
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2124
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Gabbard, Chairperson Kahele and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2124. This bill provides continued funding to the Hawaii Ant Lab project. The Department of Agriculture strongly supports this measure.

This project deals directly with education and eradication efforts, where possible, in order to contain and inhibit the movement of the Little Fire Ant into areas around the State where the invasive insect does not currently inhabit. This insect pest is so severe that it has greatly altered the way people and their animals interact with their outdoor environment. The good work of the Hawaii Ant Lab needs continued funding to preserve its efforts to achieve the goals of eradication, where possible, and containment and restriction of the ant pest within those areas that are overwhelmed by the insect. In those places where the ant is fully established, outreach to homeowners and householders on what their options are for managing the pest in and around their homes continues to be a goal of the Hawaii Ant Lab.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2017
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2124

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kahele, Vice Chairs Riviere and Mercado Kim, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports SB 2124**, *Relating to Invasive Species*. The aim of this measure is to provide funding to the Hawai‘i Ant Lab (HAL). Providing direct funding to support HAL through the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit of the University of Hawai‘i would enable HAL to continue to work towards eradicating little fire ants on Kaua‘i, O‘ahu, and Maui, while providing control education and assistance to residents and property owners on Hawai‘i island. As you are aware, there is a great need for additional funding for invasive species work. Some projects may be partially supported through the competitive grant processes of HISC and the Watershed Partnerships, or via agency budgets. However, there are several invasive species control projects that are very high priorities and must be fully funded. HAL is one such program. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

January 31, 2018

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Senator Kaiuli'i Kahele, Chair
Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Kahele, and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2124 Little Fire Ants
Hearing Date: 02/06/18 – 1:15 pm; Conference Room 224

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 SB 2124.

Little fire ants (LFA) are a real menace, capable of causing great pain in humans and blindness in pets and horses. I am told that the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) helps with community groups whenever there is a request for assistance, and my staff has expressed much appreciation for HAL's research into control methods of LFAs in Hawai'i.

I am not trying to tilt the scales for one organization versus another. I have supported HB 2046 which would fund the Department of Agriculture's efforts in its fight against LFAs, and I will speak in favor of any other bill on the subject. I hope that this Legislature will earmark as many dollars as possible to defeat this terrible species, and that multiple worthy efforts will not be allowed to result in no action at all.

Please act in favor of funding to combat this horrible invader.

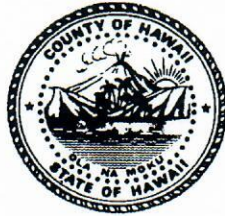
Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



Phone: (808) 965-2712
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: eileen.ohara@hawaiiicounty.gov

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

Senator Mike Gabbard
Chair, Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Senate

February 1, 2018

**Re: In Support of Senate Bill 2124, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by AEN on 02-06-18 1:15PM in conference room 224**

Aloha Chair Gabbard and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support of Senate Bill 2124, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i ant lab for personnel and equipment to support mitigation of the little fire ant.

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 ant lab 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



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

February 6, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 2124
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 224
1:15 pm

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committees:

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 SB 2124, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii ant lab for personnel and equipment to support mitigation of the little fire ant.

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 continued measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 8:03:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Hawai'i Ant Lab is the only thing standing between the Little Fire Ant and the people of Hawia'i Island. Wiithout their research, knowledge, and skill, we would certainly be lost. Please fund their work for the coming year, as their accumulated knowledge will end of benefiting all Islands and peoples in time.

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 2:32:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Raymond	Donkey Mill Art Center	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:26:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:06:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 4:40:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ken Dickinson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/1/2018 5:19:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patricia dickinson		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 10:38:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
NANCY J SEELEY		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/3/2018 5:05:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Lincoln		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:56:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:46:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pauline Sato		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Kahele, and members of the Agriculture and Environment and Higher Education committees,

I am writing as an individual in strong support of SB2124, which provides much needed support for the Hawai'i ant lab at the University of Hawai'i. Invasive species pose critical problems to Hawaii's environment and agricultural industry. The Little Fire Ant is just one of the species, but perhaps one of the worst we are faced with today. We cannot let it spread throughout the island chain as that would be devastating to the environment, agriculture, and people in general (residents and visitors). There are many instances where we as a State have waited too long to address invasive species issues. Let this not be another.

Mahalo, Pauline Sato

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 12:32:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teya Penniman		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

Expanded funding to address the invasion of little fire ants (LFAs) is critical. The Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) provides vital services throughout the State to address the little fire ant (LFA, *Wasmannia auropunctata*). On Hawaii Island, HAL staff provides outreach and education services to assist residents and businesses with controlling LFA on their properties. Their workshops typically have a waiting list. On the other islands, including Maui, HAL staff share their expertise to develop effective eradication strategies, often assisting or leading control efforts in partnership with other agencies. Under the direction of its leader, Dr. Cas Vanderwoude, HAL has developed tools that would not otherwise be available for stopping the spread of LFA throughout the islands. HAL staff are both pioneers and warriors.

This bill will provide needed funds to ensure HAL's continued operations. It is critically important that if such funds are allocated that they be in addition to, and not in lieu of, any funding provided to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.

In addition to funding for HAL's statewide work, dedicated funds, estimated to be approximately \$350,000, provided through a similar mechanism to the Maui Invasive Species Committee, would address two major LFA infestations in East Maui. Funds could employ a crew of five to cut and maintain trails throughout infestations in Nahiku and Maui and to initiate comprehensive control operations. Maui is at a crossroads in terms of stopping LFA from spreading throughout the island and support is needed now. Any dedicated funding should be in addition to HISC funds.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your efforts to protect the 'aina, agriculture and our quality of life.

Respectfully submitted,

Teya

Teya M. Penniman

SB-2124

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 11:27:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2018 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Little Fire Ants (LFA) are BAD! Please support the great work done by the Hawaii Ant Lab and UH. These people are dedicated and world class experts. I have recently attended a community meeting regarding LFA abundance and treatment. I am hopeful. The most important thing I learned and that everyone should know is: you may not know they exist on your property for years... until they are in your underwear drawer!

I know several people actively treating their property and they are following instructions developed and provided by the Hawaii Ant Lab. Passing this bill is a bare minimum. Implementing the Biosecurity Plan before more harm is done to our health, our environment, and our economy is critical. There are worse pests out there. With the lack of control and inspection on imported goods, it is only a matter of time until we get worse pests (such as the Red Fire Ant).