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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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

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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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, March 1, 2018
12:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 229
RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL**

Senate Bill 229 proposes to appropriate funds to establish 12 permanent full-time positions in the Vector Control Branch of the Department of Health (DOH). These positions would restore capacity and help ensure that the Vector Control Branch can prevent new human or animal diseases, as well as potential vectors of new human or animal diseases, from becoming established within the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department currently facilitates the Hawaii Mosquito Working Group, and has been working closely with DOH staff to identify vector control related resource needs across the State. The Department recognizes that vector control is the State's first line of defense against new pest species and diseases, the presence of which would gravely impact Hawaii's public health, economy, environment, and quality of life. The 12 additional positions would increase on the ground monitoring, surveillance, control and response operations, as well as essential administrative function.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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March 1, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 229
RELATING TO VECTOR CONTROL

Room 211
12:05 PM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, 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.

HFB strongly supports SB 229, which appropriates out of the general revenues \$741,996 and \$613,876 over the next two fiscal years for program costs and to establish twelve permanent full-time equivalent positions in the vector control branch of the department of health.

Public health necessitates the return of this DOH branch to full capacity so that Hawaii has adequate resources to prevent proliferation of disease-carrying organisms or agents and to respond quickly to potential outbreaks of disease.

Due to the recent dengue outbreak, local residents and tourists have learned the hard way how important it is to have an active and effective vector control unit to help combat mosquitoes that carry the disease and spread it to new areas and new victims.

Because they spend so much time outdoors tending their crops and livestock, farmers and ranchers across the state may be especially exposed and vulnerable to various organisms that could spread disease. We believe that the vector control program must be appropriately funded and that adequate permanent positions be established.

Thank you for your support of this important measure.

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 12:56:19 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Martin	Testifying for Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS)	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species is in strong support of this bill which would allow the Hawaii Department of Health to rebuild necessary capacity in the area of vector control. It is one of the needs that are considered "urgent" in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 1:05:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Testifying for Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 11:55:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 12:59:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 3:23:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-229

Submitted on: 2/27/2018 1:04:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mae Nakahata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: