

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 14, 2018
8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

SENATE BILL NO. 2574
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committee:

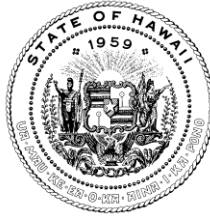
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2574. This bill will provide general obligation bonds for the planning of a state-of-the-art biological control facility. The Department strongly supports this bill.

This measure is consistent with the Department's recently released "Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan." This bill highlights the Department's priority to develop a 21st century lab for the Biocontrol Branch in the Department's Plant Industry Division to perform its important plant and pest control programs. This funding will allow the Department to update its current antiquated facility into a state-of-the-art laboratory.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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
AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, March 14, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2574
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Senate Bill 2574 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to plan the construction of a new biological control research facility. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

Biological control, the process of reuniting an invasive species in Hawaii with a carefully tested and narrowly targeted pest from its native range, is one of the most cost-effective and safe methods for controlling invasive species in Hawaii. The Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan places a high priority in investing in biological control research. Unfortunately, the pathogen containment facility for biological control research at HDOA has been non-operational for several years. A new facility is needed in order to meet safety standards and restart this important, cost-saving area of work.

Establishing such a facility is one of the key goals of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, described in postborder infrastructure action item PosTifs2.1. Passing this measure would directly support implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The full Hawaii Interagency 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



House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
March 14, 2018
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2574

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 2574, *Relating to Agriculture***. The aim of this measure is to authorize the issuance of GO bonds to support planning for a biocontrol testing and containment facility on O‘ahu.

Biological control, or biocontrol, is the science of “reuniting” an invasive plant or insect with its natural enemy from its native range, to reduce the numbers or vigor of the invasive species. Since the 1970s, the state of Hawai‘i has followed a strict and careful scientific and regulatory process to select, test, and verify that those natural enemies are host-specific, meaning that they are completely dependent on the invasive plant or pest that we are trying to manage. Since the required testing began in the 1970s, there have been over 50 natural predators released to manage invasive plants and insects in Hawai‘i and not one has switched hosts to another non-target species or become invasive themselves. Considering the need to keep these species contained until proven safe, and also considering size of some of the invasive species (such as albizia trees) whose populations could potentially be controlled through biocontrol, there is a greater need for funding the planning of such a specialized facility. Mahalo for your consideration of SB 2574.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

SB-2574

Submitted on: 3/12/2018 7:14:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB-2574

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 3:46:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

PRESENTATION OF

THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES HAWAII

OAHU COUNTY

DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

8:30 a.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 312

RE: Testimony in Support of SB2574, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

To the Honorable Richard P. Creagan, Chair; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Vice-Chair and the Members of the Committee on

Agriculture:

Good

morning, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on **SB2574**, relating to a Biological Control Facility; Department of Agriculture; Capital Improvement Project; General Obligation Bonds; and an appropriation.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of **SB2574** and support its passage.

SB2574 is in accord with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for plans of a biological control containment facility on Oahu and appropriates funds.

Specifically, the DPH Platform states, "[a]griculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. We likewise support publicly funding research and development for agricultural diversification and value-added products." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 76-77, 106-107, (2016)).

We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry.

We promote solid waste policies that divert green waste and food scraps for making invasive species free compost and enhanced mulch available to our farmers, landscapers, and residents. (Platform of the DPH, P. 3, Lines 112-116 (2016)).

Given that **SB2574** authorizes the issuance of GO bonds for plans of a biological control containment facility on Oahu and appropriates funds, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

LATE

SB-2574

Submitted on: 3/13/2018 7:48:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/14/2018 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments:

This facility will provide the necessary level of containment and lab space to research the safety and effectiveness of biological control agents, ultimately reuniting pests with their natural enemies. These tiny little helpers have been instrumental in saving Big Island farms and gardens from stinging nettle caterpillar, ranches from prickly pear cactus and thorny lantana, and may be the answer we need to save our coffee and mac nut industries. Biocontrol agents have helped peel back the thick curtain of banana poka to allow our ohia forests to thrive in the 90s, and have preserved our beautiful and unique native wiliwili trees from gall wasps. A carefully selected team of arthropods and fungi might one day slow the growth and seed production of albizia and stop christmas berry from devouring Ka`u--instead of cost prohibitive pests, they could become just like any other tree, just like they are in their home country.

Successful biocontrol agents work 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, happily eating their way through our most costly problems. This facility will be their welcome station.