

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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LATE

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND ON PUBLIC
SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY 5, 2020
1:30 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 229

SENATE BILL NO. 2448
RELATING TO BEES

Chairpersons Kahele and Nishihara and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2448, relating to bees. This bill requires any public facility or entity that receives state or county funding to contract with a beekeeper for removal and destroy the beehive only as a last resort when a beehive or swarm of bees is discovered on its property. The Department supports this measure and offers comments.

Honeybees are an important part of Hawai'i's agriculture and economy, for pollination services, honey production, and queen bee exports. The Department is in favor of safe removal and repatriation of bee swarms and established honeybee colonies where appropriate. For the purpose of biosecurity, however, repatriation of bees detected at ports of entry (air and seaports) is not desirable. Hawaii is under threat of exotic bees like Africanized bees or Asian bees. If Africanized bees are unknowingly repatriated, the potential for eradication is immediately eliminated. The potential for movement of pests of limited distribution in Hawaii such as the varroa mite also exists. Rigorous port biosecurity calls for the full range of options to address bees as appropriate to specific situations.



Bee stings can severely impact human health via allergic reactions to their venom. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, U.S. deaths from bee and wasp stings averaged 62 per year from 2000 to 2017, with a low of 43 in 2001 to a high of 89 in 2017. Last year, several people in Hawaii were stung, one severely, during an encounter with a wild honeybee colony at Iolani Palace. One of the colonies infesting the palace was removed. Although the beekeeper followed best practices, the straggler bees became agitated and necessitated the prolonged shutdown of Iolani Palace due to safety concerns.

The Department recommends that the measure should be strengthened by requiring that procedures to protect workers and the public during removal or destruction of hives be adopted and implemented. Additionally, the public facility or entity should be required to take action to remove or destroy the hive as soon as practicable after its discovery in recognition of the urgent threat to public safety and welfare.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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February 5, 2020

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 2448 – RELATING TO BEES.

Chair Kahele, Chair Nishihara and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association.

First of all we are not sure why this bill is even necessary however if it is going to move forward, we would note that it actually takes a license as a pest control operator, under Chapter 460J HRS to control bees and beehives that are on structures. That is the very definition of structural pest control. Our members strive however, never to destroy a beehive but, rather, to have it relocated and for that, we oftentimes call beekeepers. However, if the only alternative is for destruction then it is the licensed pest control operator who is the solution.

Based on the above, we would respectfully request that if this bill is to move forward, that it reference licensed pest control operators as licensed under Chapter 460 J HRS.

Thank you.

SB-2448

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 1:25:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/5/2020 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	No

Comments: