

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 3379 SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: 4/6/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Provide appropriations to the Department of Land and Natural Resources

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB 3379 SD1 which appropriates
3 funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program, and continue the work established by Mamalu
4 Poepoe.

5 In 2017, Mamalu PoePoe (MMPP) was established as a 5-year collaborative program within the
6 Department of Land and Natural Resources/Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to bring
7 together resources from DLNR, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Health (DOH), the University of
8 Hawaii and federal partners to facilitate a cooperative partnership in the detection and prevention
9 of invasive species from entering Hawaii through the ports of entry. The DOH, Vector Control
10 Branch has greatly benefitted from the knowledge, expertise and funding provided by MMPP to
11 help expand our surveillance program at airports and harbors. In 2017 at Kahului Airport, with
12 assistance from MMPP, Maui Vector Control staff intercepted mosquito larvae and prevented the
13 breeding of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito; the mosquito known to transmit vector borne diseases such
14 as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, and Zika.

15 Most recently in August of 2021, the Oahu Vector Control staff identified an adult *Aedes aegypti*
16 mosquito at one of its routine monitoring stations at Honolulu Harbor, Pier 2. MMPP assisted in
17 DOH's response by providing technical assistance, securing additional sampling equipment and
18 facilitating and coordinating access to secure locations at the harbor.

1 The infrastructure already established through DLNR/HISC and specifically under MMPP has
2 been invaluable in the development of an interagency Standard Operating Procedures Manual for
3 invasive species, and bringing together agency experts to strengthen and protect Hawaii's
4 biosecurity.

5

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
FINANCE

APRIL 6, 2022

1:30 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 3379, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3379, SD 1. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program and affirms that proactive investment in strengthening a ports-of-entry biosecurity program is more economic in protecting Hawaii from invasive species than reactionary actions. The Department appreciates the intent of the bill and is in close communication and collaboration with its partners, however, has concerns and offers the following comments.

Pursuant to HRS §150A-51, since 2008 the Department has been entrusted with the **exclusive** statutory authority to conduct port-of-entry inspections and take regulatory action on regulated articles including live plants, non-propagative plant parts,



non-domestic animals, and microorganisms, including interisland movement of said articles, to implement the Biosecurity Program.

The Department's inspection authority at ports-of-entry, includes air and maritime ports across the state, pursuant to HRS §150A-5(5). Inspections are done through the Department's Plant Quarantine Branch, and inspectors are already trained to detect the presence of any hitchhiking invasive pest, not just those that would not be found using just traps or lures, such as the brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys*, or egg masses of the spotted lantern fly, *Lycorma delicatula*.

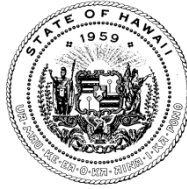
The Department also has the statutory authority to regulate the importation and/or possession, through the issuance of permits, certain plants, non-domestic animals, and microorganisms via Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter, 4-70, 4-71, and 4-71A, respectively.

Further, under HRS §141-3.5 the Department's Plant Pest Control Branch has the authority to launch control and eradication programs against pests such as coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ants, and honeybees (which including Africanized honeybees) which have been listed under HAR 4-69A Pests for Control and Eradication.

As indicated above, the Department already has the statutory authority and trained and experienced biosecurity personnel already at ports-of-entry statewide, and we are concerned that appropriating funds to an agency other than the Department to conduct functions already within its statutory authority and being performed by the Department may be unnecessarily duplicative, redundant, or statutorily conflicting.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN
PATRICK H. MCCAIN
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

April 6, 2022
1:30 p.m.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 3379, S.D. 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

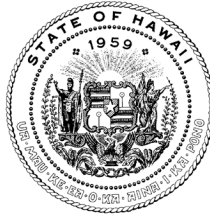
House Committee on Finance

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill which recognizes invasive species threatens Hawaii's environment, agriculture, people, and our visitors by appropriating general fund revenues for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program for fiscal year 2022-2023.

The DOT is cognizant its airports and harbors are ports of entry for invasive species and agrees that strengthening biosecurity efforts ensures the public's safety and the economic prosperity of our entire State.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
1:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3379, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 3379, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (formerly known as Māmalu Poepoe) started as a pilot project in 2016 to fill a critical gap in pest monitoring at Hawaii's airports. The Program is administered by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) under the Department (Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and is a multi-agency program that includes the State Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Transportation, the Island Invasive Species Committees and the Hawaii Ant Lab. Current monitoring efforts occur at Hawaii's airports and focus on four primary pests: Africanized bees, invasive ants, mosquitoes, and coconut Rhinoceros beetle. Each of these targets could easily hitchhike on planes, slip through inspections, and impact multiple sectors of the local economy, human health, and our way of life in the islands.

The 5-year pilot project demonstrated the need to continue monitoring efforts not only at airports but expand to seaports and add target pests to the current list, based on feedback from state and federal agencies. These efforts do not duplicate the critical inspections carried out under the authority of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture Plant Quarantine Branch (HDOA PQ). Building capacity at HDOA PQ is necessary to implementing a comprehensive biosecurity program at ports of entry and fulfilling the goals identified in the 2017-2027 Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

HISC recently received permission from the Department of Transportation (DOT) Airports Division to continue current monitoring/surveillance efforts at airport facilities and is currently working with the DOT Harbors Division on a plan for monitoring at Honolulu Harbor. The continuation and expansion of the Program are dependent on securing additional funding. Relatively small investments in early detection and rapid response programs are the most cost-effective way to deal with invasive species and can save the state billions of dollars in economic losses and damages.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3379, S.D. 1

April 6, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 3379, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 from the Native Resources and Fire Protection Program's (LNR 402) appropriation for the ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

As a matter of general policy, B&F does not support the practice of redirecting, on a general basis, funds specifically appropriated for one purpose to a different purpose. It is recommended that new general funds are appropriated to carry out the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
April 6, 2022
1:30 p.m., Room 308 and via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 3379 SD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of SB 3379 SD1, *Relating to Biosecurity***. The aim of this measure is to provide funding for the continuation and expansion of a port-of-entry invasive pest monitoring program.

Hawaii's air- and sea ports receive and move an incredible amount of conveyances—planes, ships, cargo, and even the shipping pallets and containers themselves—and each provides an opportunity for a new pest to arrive. As you know, federal and state agency inspectors are the first line of defense, protecting Hawai'i by inspecting items that are considered high-risk for carrying pests. However, certain pests can be particularly elusive and unlikely to be found during commodity inspections, for example:

- Africanized honeybees (a particularly aggressive hybrid between European and African bee subspecies) can arrive unnoticed on cargo containers, and may not be seen until too late.
- New species of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases can arrive in aircraft or vessel holds or cabins. The arrival and establishment of new species of mosquitoes or of malaria, zika, and other diseases would change our lives and the visitor economy forever.

For these reasons the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council agencies and partners worked together to set up and operate a DOT-funded 5-year pilot program that used traps to monitor for these and a short list of other pests at key airports in Hawai'i. A review of the airport monitoring program, called Mamalu Poepoe, was conducted in 2021 and found that key partners thought that the program was important, helpful, and effective. Further, agency partners thought that the program should expand to include monitoring traps around some key locations at Honolulu Harbor such as the Foreign Trade Zone and major cargo operations.

It may also be helpful to know that the Mamalu Poepoe program expanded the capacities the Hawai'i Department of Health and Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and focused efforts of existing organizations including the Hawai'i Ant Lab, the Invasive Species Committees, honeybee and other research work at the University of Hawai'i. Dr. Leyla Kaufman, the Mamalu Poepoe program coordinator, has done a tremendous job of putting the program together to meet the needs of multiple agencies, and instituting a variety of monitoring and rapid response protocols for the different pests. The initial investment has been more than worth the outcome, and we think that investing in the expansion of the program to the State's main harbor will also be well worth the cost. Thank you for your consideration of SB 3379 SD1.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



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

April 6, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 3379, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3379, SD1, which appropriates funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, coffee leaf rust, macadamia felted coccid, brown tree snake, little fire ant, two-lined spittlebug, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk.

Funding the ports-of-entry biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide necessary resources to HISC to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.

SB-3379-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2022 12:44:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four

county level Cattlemen’s Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000

head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over

750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State’s total land mass. We represent the interests of

Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen’s Council supports SB3379 SD1 to appropriate funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program. As a vulnerable island state, we must take measures to secure ports-of-entry and

prevent the negative effects of invasive species on the environment. We support the investment in

invasive species preventative measures, and appreciate the foresight of stopping the spread at ports-of-

entry. This effort will help the economy and the health of the land in the long run, and curb added

expenses for agricultural entities to address invasive species after they arrive and spread.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-3379-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2022 1:30:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/6/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Money spent on biosecurity is one of the best investments the State can make, as it returns its cost many times over in savings on pest control and other efforts to mitigate the deleterious effects of introductions of invasive species.