



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 8, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY ON SB 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Via Videoconference
3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Lee, Vice-Chairs Nishihara and Inouye, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 3379, which appropriates funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii'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 HDOA's 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 HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawaii and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawaii.

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

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
TRANSPORTATION**

**Tuesday, February 8, 2022
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

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

The State Legislature declared invasive species to be the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people and visitors in a 2015 report (Legislative Reference Bureau 2015). Hawaii's role as a hub for travel, commerce, and military transport is a major contributor to the economy but also increases its vulnerability to new pest incursions. 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.

The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (formerly known as Māmalu Poepoe) has acted as the shield to prevent the introduction and spread of high-risk pests to Hawaii by implementing a multi-agency pest monitoring system at Hawaii's airports. The program has successfully operated at Hawaii's six main airports with funding from the Hawaii Department of Transportation's Airport Revenue Fees for the past five years, implementing monitoring efforts for four target 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, as well as human health and our way of life in the islands.

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

The monitoring efforts complement those of the federal and state agency commodity inspections rather than duplicating them.

Some program highlights include:

- Coordination of the development of a response plan for Africanized bees.
- Intercepted *Aedes aegypti*, a mosquito species currently restricted to Hawaii Island and an effective vector of Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika and other arboviruses (viruses spread to people by the bite of infected insects such as mosquitoes and ticks), at Kahului airport in 2017.
- Coordinated efforts for mosquito response at Honolulu Harbor in 2021.
- Developed Best Management Practices for airport contractors and workers for all target species under the program.
- Coordinated the development of Standard Operating Procedures for detecting *Aedes* mosquitoes.

The program fills a critical gap in Hawaii's biosecurity and provides critical human health and economic protection. The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program is administered under the Hawaii Invasive Species Council at the Department. We request the funds be budgeted to the LNR 402 to facilitate quick implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

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The monitoring efforts complement those of the federal and state agency commodity inspections rather than duplicating them.

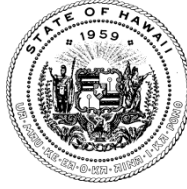
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- Coordinated efforts for mosquito response at Honolulu Harbor in 2021.
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The program fills a critical gap in Hawaii's biosecurity and provides critical human health and economic protection. The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program is administered under the Hawaii Invasive Species Council at the Department. We request the funds be budgeted to the LNR 402 to facilitate quick implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment 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

February 8, 2022
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Teleconference

S.B. 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

Senate Committee(s) on Agriculture and Environment & Transportation

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

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND THE
ENVIRONMENT
AND
TRANSPORTATION**

**VIDEOCONFERENCE
FEBRUARY 8, 2022, 3:00PM**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Lee, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3379. The bill affirms that proactive investment in strengthening a port-of-entry biosecurity program is more economic in protecting Hawaii from invasive species than reactionary actions. The Department supports the bill and offers the following comments.

The bill appropriates funds to continue the ports-of-entry biosecurity program, which the Department has initiated and been a part of since the implementation of the Biosecurity Program. The Department is well suited to continue the ports-of-entry biosecurity program due to its statutory authority to inspect cargo at airports and marine ports of the State. The Department's experienced Plant Quarantine inspectors have the authority and accreditation to inspect arriving cargo for the presence of hitchhiking invasive pests that would not be found using just traps and lures, such as the brown marmorated stink bug and egg masses of the spotted lantern fly. The Department has in place a well-defined plan to expend the appropriated funds as allocated in the bill to



2

mitigate the risk of invasive species arriving through high-risks sites, such as our airports and marine ports as intended in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify 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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
TRANSPORTATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3379

February 8, 2022
3:00 p.m.
Via Videoconference

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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

Senate Bill No. 3379 appropriates \$525,000 in general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Agriculture's ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

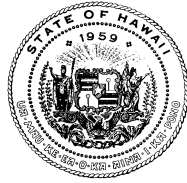
Comments on SB3379 relating to Biosecurity at Ports of Entry
Senate Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Transportation
February 8, 2022 3:00 PM

Aloha Chairs:

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee supports this bill to fund ongoing, proactive surveys of Hawaii's ports of entry as a critical, cost-effective means to protect Hawaii from new, high-risk invasive species. Targets of current surveys and inspections include directly harmful pests such as disease-carrying mosquitoes, stinging ants not yet in the state, coconut rhinoceros beetles that have not yet reached the neighbor islands, and swarms of aggressive hybridized honeybees.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Springer Kaye, Manager
Big Island Invasive Species Committee



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
Relating to Biosecurity

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
SENATOR CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

Hearing Date: 2/8/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Provides appropriations to Department of Agriculture

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB 3379 which appropriates funds
3 for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

4 In 2017, Mamalu PoePoe (MMPP) was established as a 5-year collaborative program in
5 DLNR/HISC to bring together resources from Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Land and Natural
6 Resources, Dept. of Health, the University of Hawaii and along with federal partners to facilitate
7 a cooperative partnership in the detection and prevention of invasive species from entering
8 Hawaii through the ports of entry. The Department of Health, Vector Control Branch has greatly
9 benefitted from the knowledge, expertise and funding provided by MMPP to help expand our
10 surveillance program at airports and harbors. In 2017 at Kahului Airport, with assistance from
11 MMPP, Vector Control staff intercepted larvae and prevented the breeding of *Aedes aegypti*
12 mosquito; the mosquito known to transmit vector borne diseases such as Dengue Fever,
13 Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, and Zika. Most recently in August of 2021, the Oahu Vector
14 Control staff identified an adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquito at one of its routine monitoring stations at
15 Honolulu Harbor. MMPP assisted in Department of Health's response by providing technical
16 assistance, securing additional sampling equipment and facilitating and coordinating access to
17 secure locations at the harbor.

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

4

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

SB-3379

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:38:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/8/2022 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nathan Dube	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Gabbard & Lee, Vice Chairs Nishihara & Inouye, and Esteemed Senators-

I strongly support increased monitoring and control efforts at ports of entry because this is a critical pathway for invasive species to enter the state. Any increase in effort for biosecurity and invasive species management will yield positive benefits for crucial industries like tourism and agriculture by catching problematic species before they have a chance to establish and become a more costly problem. Biosecurity at ports of entry could prevent the next little fire ant from entering and devastating the state.

Mahalo nui for your time & consideration!