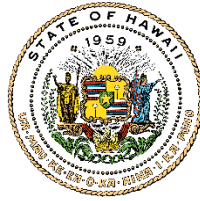


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, February 6, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1552
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 1552 proposes to appropriate funds to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in 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 Department's Executive Budget request.**

The Little Fire Ant (LFA) is designated as one of the world's top 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Hawai'i has no native ant species, making natural ecosystems particularly vulnerable to ant invasions. LFA continue to spread throughout the islands, reducing biological diversity and increasing operating costs for agriculture. The stings from LFA are painful and are a major human health risk. There has been an increase in LFA infestations across the State over the last year, especially on Maui, O'ahu and Kaua'i.

The Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) is a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) with the University of Hawai'i. HAL has a statewide mission to prevent the entry of invasive ants in Hawai'i and manage those already established. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is administered through the Department and provides policy level direction, coordination, and planning among state departments for the prevention, control, and eradication of harmful invasive species throughout the State. The HISC has prioritized funding to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab and partner agencies working to control invasive ants throughout the State through its yearly, competitive grant process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 6, 2023
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 1552
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1552. The bill appropriates funds to the Hawaii Ant Lab to support research and management efforts to invasive ants in Hawaii, in particular the little fire ant. The little fire ant is one of the most devastating invasive species for Hawaii's unique natural resources and agricultural economy. Continuous funding of the Hawaii Ant Lab will secure management of this invasive pest and working on potential eradication tools in the future.

The Department supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304

Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

February 6, 2023

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 1552 - Relating to Invasive Species

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association, an organization composed of around 85 companies who perform structural pest control.

One of the pests that we commonly run into is the little fire ant. As you know, this is a pest that our operators have had to deal with and it is research, such as that conducted by the Hawaii ant lab, that provides our operators with the kind of information that we need in order to best control this invasive pest for the benefit of Hawaii's residents.

Based on that, we highly recommend your support of this \$550,000.00 appropriation.

Thank you.



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 6, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 1552
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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 1552, which appropriates funds to support the Hawai'i ant lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State.

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, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, varroa mite, two-lined spittlebug, to name a few.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree the Hawai'i Ant Lab's operational funding is critical to ensure that continued measures to stop the spread of little fire ants are not reduced or disrupted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Feb 4th 2023

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON AGRACULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Vice Chair: Senator Herbert M Tim Richards III

CONCERNING: SB640 (Relating to Agriculture), SB682 (Relating to Animal Fur Products), SB967 (Relating to Taxation), SB998 (Relating to Spaying and Neutering of Animals), SB1009 (Relating to Neonicotinoids), SB1011 (Related to Pesticides), SB1552 (Relating to Invasive Species)

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT OF ALL LISTED BILLS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III, and all the Committee Members

The Environmental Caucus is testifying in support of all the listed bills above.

SB998: One of our priority issues concerns continuing and expanding all programs to humanely control the feral cat and dog populations by funding as many Spay and Neutering programs as are possible. Sadly there are many people who have rescued abandoned pets, or are willing to care for or adopt pets but who cannot afford timely spaying/neutering of them. The Humane Society is doing what it can but the waiting list for private persons to get their pets fixed is often months long and people cannot take the time from work to get it done or have no means for transporting their animals to such services. More funding is vital and amongst other things, might provide for more service options like mobile clinic spay and neuter services. They have been very successful in the past.

SB640 & 967 & 1552: We support all legislation which assists local farmers who provide us with local food sources, with special support for organic farming whenever the type of crop allows for it. Food independence from imported products rests with local farmers. In addition, the damage done to our agricultural industry and our native flora by invasive species has been devastating over the years. We need to do more in all possible ways to prevent these environmental disasters.

SB682: In principle, we are against the harvesting and selling of any animal skins although they are a number of commercially raised animals only for their skins. We feel that Americans, at least do not or should not require animals to die for our fashion egos.

SB1009 & 1011: We support all bills which eliminate and/or monitor the use of pesticides which poison the land and are dangerous to animals and humans alike.

Martha E Randolph
DPH Environmental Caucus SCC Representative

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:32:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marvin Min	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and members of the Ag Committee:

I fully support this bill as the HAL has been doing a great job! In fact, I believe that the funding should be doubled- so that the HAL can control these invasive species faster before they spread more. In other words, lets nip this in the okole as fast as we can before it is out of control.

Mahalo for all you do!

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:06:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support. Thank you.

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:20:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for accepting this testimony in favor of **passing SB1552**. The loss of funding by the Hawaii Ant Lab comes at a critical time when an increasing number of isolated populations of Little Fire Ants are being identified across the islands. The requested funds will allow continued critical outreach, research, and rapid response to extinguish these outbreaks. I urge the committee to pass SB1552 as these efforts are imperative to prevent Little Fire Ants from spreading throughout our state and wreaking havoc in our agriculture fields, forests, and homes.

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:40:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ozzy Bellwood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because living in Puna I have encountered little fire ants in my yard and in the yards of my friends. I have seen dogs, cats, and chickens blinded by these pests, and the Hawaii Ant Lab is acting to educate the public on the best methods of controlling these ants. The work the lab does is invaluable, especially working as a free resource for the public.

I have many friends whose children are stung just trying to play in the yard, who can't go and trim their trees without getting covered in welts. I've met some farmers and harvesters that dread going out to pick their crops due to them. The lab works to contain these ants and to teach the public how best to push them back out of their land.

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:32:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1552.

SB-1552

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:38:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These fire ants are horrible to critters. We have them in Lanikai. I've heard the stories and have seen the suffering of animals and birds. Please do what you can to eliminate them.