

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

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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
FINANCE

Thursday, February 22, 2024
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2619 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

House Bill 2619 House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. **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 Executive FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

Invasive species prevention and management is critical to achieving the Department's mission of enhancing, protecting, conserving, and managing Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. In island ecosystems, invasive species are the primary driver of biodiversity loss and can exacerbate the negative impacts of climate change. The Department and partners are racing against time to save species from extinction like the remaining populations of Hawaiian honeycreepers that are now threatened by mosquito-borne diseases as these pests move into upper elevations; the native land snails that are predated on by invasive snails, reptiles, and rodents that are spreading into upper watersheds; and the continued spread of the fungal pathogens that cause Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death that is killing a keystone species of native Hawaiian forests.

The threat of a new, devastating pest or disease is ever-present. As global trade and travel continues to increase and expand, there are more opportunities for new pest incursions to occur.

Recent statistics for Hawai‘i estimate that 80% of commodities and 90% of food are imported, and over six million people visit Hawai‘i each year making border biosecurity critical for preventing new invasive species from arriving and spreading in Hawai‘i.

For too long the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has been underfunded and understaffed to carry-out the immensity of their authority. They are the State Department that is mandated to implement Hawai‘i’s biosecurity program. They play an important role in inspecting cargo and passengers at all ports of entry for the importation of potentially harmful pests and regulate the importation and possession of nondomestic animals and microorganisms. Their authority protects Hawai‘i’s agricultural industries, natural resources, and the public from the entry and establishment of detrimental plants, animals, insects, weeds, plant diseases, and other pests.

House Bill 2619 HD1 is a much-needed boost to the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture that will allow the Department to increase their capacity and operations to meet the growing needs and challenges Hawaii faces with managing new pathways like e-commerce, while still managing the conventional ones like shipping, planes, and people. This bill would also help achieve many of the actions outlined in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, of which both the Department and HDOA endorsed and are lead agencies. Those actions include additional inspectors at the Plant Quarantine branch, implementing a state-of-the-art biosecurity database that will help identify high-risk pathways and commodities, and development of tools for diagnostics at ports of entry.

The Department greatly appreciates the introduction of this bill and recognition of the importance of HDOA’s role in invasive species management. The Department recommends that a comprehensive plan be included as part of this appropriation that outlines goals and actions on how HDOA will utilize the additional funding with an opportunity for input from other State Departments, federal agencies, and agencies, which could also be achieved through the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 22, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2619, HD1 relating to agricultural biosecurity. This appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The Department strongly supports this bill so long as it does not impact the budget priorities set forth in the Executive Budget Submittal. Next to preventing the introduction and spread of pests into and throughout the State, continual investments in research and development are necessary to address on-going issues and if possible, get ahead of pests that are on the horizon. With global trade and an increased ability to get almost any commodity globally in a matter of days, the threats pests pose is greater than ever. To protect and enhance critical agricultural production in the State, the continual development and refinement of diagnostic tools to enable proper pest management prior to further spread throughout production areas; developing, distributing, and utilizing pest-resistant plant cultivars can often maintain production levels without additional labor or pesticide usage; new quarantine treatments enable



farmers to use the most effective tools for pest management in addition to reducing pesticide resistance; and using crop specific/pest specific best-management practices reduce overall pest pressure; are all critical components in helping many agricultural production sectors fend off the threats and impacts of invasive species.

The departments original request was \$2,500,000 to fully implement this bill. After seeing other bills to support biosecurity, the department's new request could be as much as \$20,000,000. This would include additional costs attributed to Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Coqui response, an increase in staffing and planning funds for a biocontrol facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892
HB2619hd1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
House FIN Hearing – 1:00 PM
Thursday, February 22, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House FIN Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Recent informational briefings have emphasized the systemic impact of invasive species on agriculture, ranging from crop damage, cost, and time spent for mitigation to workers' inability to work in the fields or harvest crops.

The proposed Agricultural Biosecurity Program is not a 'nice to have' program. It is essential for an environment conducive to farmers' and ranchers' food production. New pests are introduced to Hawaii annually, adding to invasives already here. Axis deer, CRB, LFA, and coqui frogs are top of mind today. When these pests are left without control, eradication is almost impossible.

Adequate funding support for this essential program will provide the HDOA with the resources to prevent invasive species from entering the state and actively control or eradicate invasive species already here.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2619.**

HB2619's allocation of funds to the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture will enable the development and implementation of essential projects aimed at ensuring the availability of clean plant material, enhancing agricultural treatments, advancing diagnostics, and bolstering pest management. These initiatives are crucial for ensuring the health and productivity of our crops and livestock, thereby protecting our farmers' livelihoods and the economic stability of our state.

Biosecurity plays a vital role in mitigating the risks associated with invasive pests, diseases, and other harmful organisms that pose a significant threat to our local agricultural industry. By investing in this program, we can proactively develop strategies and technologies to quell the spread of these threats, safeguarding our food supply, preserving the unique biodiversity of our islands, and maintaining the high quality of our agricultural products.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Mason Scharer
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 12:59:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui County Farm Bureau requests the committee's strong support of HB2619 HD1. Agriculture is constantly under threat of new pests and diseases which adds to the cost of production. Once established, the farmers and ranchers absorb the costs to control these pest and diseases in their operations. Thank you.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, February 22, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2619 HD1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Dear Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 2619 HD1, which appropriates funds for the Biosecurity Program of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Ulupono supports the DOA's efforts to prevent, control, and mitigate invasive species throughout our state. With the economic difficulties experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the state was forced to redirect critical funding across departments during the 2021 legislative session. As a result, the DOA was stripped of its ability to fund important biosecurity efforts, from inspections to import replacement projects. This bill seeks to reestablish the state's commitment to biosecurity, funding key tools to combat invasive pests and diseases.

We appreciate this committee's attention to this very important agricultural issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 22, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 HB 2619, HD1, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. HDOA's 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 resources to HDOA 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 the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



February 20, 2024

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Support of HB 2619, H.D. 1 (Appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. Effective 7/1/3000.)

Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference.

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2619, H.D. 1**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii.

HB 2619, H.D. 1. This bill proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the DOA to develop and implement projects to increase local agricultural production and to lessen the entry of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit brought into the State on imported agricultural goods.

LURF's Position. Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, reptiles, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, native species and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. In Hawaii, invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist, and dry land forests, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

The DOA has established a biosecurity program to combat invasive species and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit and has also supported the growth of agriculture in Hawaii by attempting to reduce the State's dependency on imported agricultural products that may contain these invasive pests. The public's health and welfare would benefit by continued and further funding of these biosecurity programs.

This bill is also consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without funding for implementation of programs and efforts like the DOA's biosecurity program which involve the collaboration and support of agricultural and business organizations, as well as government agencies.

By recognizing the significance of and need to improve and protect the local agriculture industry and establish programs which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2619, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HB2619 HD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:15AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2619 HD1** which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but invasive species directly affects food production and natural resource conservation. For example, Hawaii Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, so an outbreak of twolined spittlebug will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers, but to our endeavor for food security.

As a vulnerable island state, we must take measures boost our biosecurity. We support the investment in invasive species preventative measures. 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. 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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB2619 HD1
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

House Committee on Finance

Date: Thursday, February 22, 2024
Time: 1:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 308

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB2619, HD1**, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The growing negative impacts of invasive species is currently one of the greatest dangers to Hawaii's agricultural industry. The Department of Agriculture needs the necessary funds and resources to fight these pests that pose such serious risks to the viability of our farming communities today and into the future. This bill attempts to address the invasive species threat on multiple fronts and that is why we stand in strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:37:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Wat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Biosecurity is our first line of defense in protecting our unique and delicate native ecosystem against invasive species. This is an essential step and is critically underfunded.

Please pass this bill to prevent the next CRB or LFA from coming into Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 2:27:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clemens Mayer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Clemens Mayer, and I strongly support HB2619

As someone involved in several aspects of conservation, as well as a practitioner of hana no'eau threatened by invasive species. Invasive species, such as the Little Fire Ant, are or can be major threats to public health, as well as being majorly detrimental to commercial sectors such as agriculture and tourism. Therefore, I strongly support this motion to protect the environment of Hawai'i nei from invasive pests.

With warmest regards, Clemens Mayer

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:22:15 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stand by Hawaii Cattlmrn'd Council testimony

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:23:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 12:32:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB 2619, HD1, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai‘i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai‘i’s environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State’s goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for the protection of Hawai‘i’s environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. HDOA’s 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 resources to HDOA 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 the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 7:38:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am in support of HB2619 HD1.

Invasive species, pests, and controlling disease and disease vectors need to be a high priority to protect our fragile environment. The devastation to our environment has been, and has the potential to continue to be, catastrophic, changing the way we live and interact with our environment forever.

The smallest of pests, down to fungi which are impossible to see with the naked eye, can spread and destroy crops and livelihoods, and affect our way of life forever. Our current major threats, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Little Fire Ants can do so much devastation that we need to fund biosecurity now. The best time to have funded biosecurity would have been 20 years ago, but the second best time is now.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:35:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Auwelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The importance of biosecurity for Hawaii cannot be understated especially to Hawaii's agriculture, natural resource management and indirectly to tourism. Nearly every new pest that gets here has some kind of impact to agriculture, making it more and more difficult for farming to be viable. We cannot afford to lose more agricultural capacity. If Covid taught us anything it showed us just how vulnerable we are. If Hawaii is to remain a place where people can live and visit and enjoy, we have to take our biosecurity more seriously. Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:45:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this much needed measure to support the DOA's biosecurity program.

Thank you.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:49:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support funding for biosecurity. I am a wildlife biologist and have worked for many years in Invasive Species efforts across the state. Although the Hawaii Department of Agriculture already does biosecurity, there is so much more that could be done with better staffing, treatments, diagnostics, research and technology. Biosecurity overall is the most cost effective way to prevent invasive species harms from the start. Funding biosecurity will potentially save the state significant funds it would otherwise spend on efforts to control an invasive species once it gets into the state.

Again, I urge you to support this bill and fund biosecurity. It is a wise investment in our future.

Mahalo,
Patrick Chee

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:03:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/22/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito LHote	Aina Hookupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support to invest in pest control and irradiation as I see more and more pest making their way into the state and world wide wich could position Hawaii to become a leader in biosecurity and export its IP