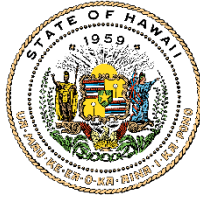


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
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
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 13, 2024
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2419 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 2419 Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (DOA) 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 predated 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 an ever-present reality. As global trade and travel continues to increase and expand, there are more opportunities for new pest incursions to occur. Statistics estimate that Hawai'i imports 80% of its commodities and 90% of its food and over six

million people visit Hawaii each year, making border biosecurity critical for preventing new invasive species from arriving and spreading in Hawai'i.

For too long, the HDOA) could not carry out the immensity of its authority. They are the department mandated by the State to implement Hawai'i's biosecurity program. They play an essential 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.

Senate Bill 2419 Senate Draft 1 is a boost to the HDOA 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 Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan, 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 developing tools for diagnostics at ports of entry.

The Department greatly appreciates introducing this bill and recognizing 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 the Department of Agriculture will utilize the additional funding. This plan should include 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 AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

MARCH 13, 2024
8:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2419, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2419, SD1 relating to Agricultural Biosecurity. This bill appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, production and post-harvest treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. The Department strongly supports this measure so long as it does not impact the budget priorities set forth in the Executive Budget Submittal.

The Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program is vital to the public's health and welfare, and therefore, the comprehensive strategy must fully be executed to prevent and control increasing invasive species threats from entering and spreading throughout the State. Although inspections are critical, building local capacity to increase the State's ability to stop the entry of high-risk products would enhance Hawaii's efforts to mitigate and manage invasive species. This ability is vitally important not only to protect Hawaii's fragile environment but also to grow the State's local agricultural industry and to increase levels of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





SB2419 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY
House Committee on Agriculture

March 13, 2024

8:30 AM

Conference Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2419 SD1**, which is a crucial piece of legislation that addresses the vital issue of agricultural biosecurity in the State of Hawai‘i. **OHA believes this bill is essential for safeguarding Hawai‘i’s unique environment, natural resources, public health, and economy.**

The biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture, as stipulated in this legislation, strategically addresses the multifarious challenges brought about by pests and prohibited organisms. The program, through pre-entry measures, port-of-entry inspections, and post-entry measures, ensures the safeguarding of our state from the introduction and spread of harmful entities.

The appropriations in Section 2 of SB2419 SD1 are crucial for the development and implementation of projects essential for agricultural sustainability. Initiatives like clean seed development, varietal improvements, production and post-harvest treatments, diagnostics, and pest management programs underscore a commitment to fostering local agricultural production while minimizing the risk of invasive species. Enhancing our state's capacity to prevent the entry of high-risk products is not only essential for protecting our fragile environment but also paramount for the growth of Hawai‘i’s local agricultural industries.

This legislation promotes self-sufficiency and sustainability by reducing dependency on imported agricultural goods that may harbor pests, aligning with the vision of a resilient and thriving Native Hawaiian agricultural community.

We strongly urge the Committee to consider the long-term benefits that SB2419 SD1 will bring to our state’s biosecurity efforts. In doing so, we honor our commitment to preserving Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems, supporting local agriculture, and ensuring the health and prosperity of our people.

Accordingly, OHA urges this Committee to **PASS SB2419 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.



March 11, 2024

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Support of SB 2419, S.D. 1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity (Appropriates moneys 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. Declares that the appropriation exceeds the general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025. Effective 7/1/2050.)

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at 8:30 a.m.; State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & 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 SB 2419, S.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

SB 2419, S.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 SB 2419, S.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

SB2419 SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Wednesday, March 13 2024, 8:30am
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

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

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2419 SD1** 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.

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 it is imperative that we implement measure pre-entry and 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.

Supporting local agricultural production and reducing imports is also a mechanism to reducing the introduction of invasive species. In order to support local agriculture, a key need it to keep ag lands in ag production, as Act 90, 2003 aims to accomplish.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. 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



LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

SB2419sd1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
House AGR Hearing – 8:30 AM
Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House AGR 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Wednesday, March 13, 2024 — 8:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2419 SD1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Dear Chair Gates 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 and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports SB 2419 SD1, which appropriates moneys 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



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair**

Wednesday, March 13, 2024 8:30 AM

**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 350 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) strong **SUPPORTS SB2419**, 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 floriculture industry understands the impact and problems that are caused by invasive species and how they can negatively affect our industry, environment, and community. Invasive pests are an ongoing battle that needs an “all hands on deck” approach.

There are no easy answers and our best option is to have proper funding for HDOA to help steer, control and maintain our actions against invading pests and diseases. We would like to see enough funding for a comprehensive Biosecurity Program and strategy.

We ask that you support our industry and agriculture, so that we may continue to bring the beauty of Hawaii to others through flowers and ornamentals.

If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,


Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

March 13, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2419, SD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
8:30 AM

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

MCFB strongly supports SB2419, SD1, appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture to implement a biosecurity program for the State of Hawaii.

Invasive species management is defined as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” by the Executive Order 13112 creating the National Invasive Species Committee. Hawaii has significant focus on management of invasive species relating to biodiversity, impact on native species and ecological harm but has neglected impacts of invasive species on agricultural production. This has contributed to a decline of agricultural viability across the State despite the State’s policy to increase levels of agricultural self sufficiency. Hawaii has reason to be proud in its’ early recognition of the potential harm of invasive species to the islands by King Kalakaua, establishing the plant quarantine program in 1888 making Hawaii a pioneer in invasive species management. This leadership role is critical today as climate change and global transport increase the risk to the State. Priorities of how and where funds are spent must be clear taking account the welfare of the State. In this scope the needs of agriculture must not be ignored.

Invasive species management started in the Department of Agriculture and regulatory authority continues to lie in the Department. There is logic behind this decision as agricultural production’s success lies in the protection of the environment within which it exists. For example, the protection of watersheds is critical to ensure water resources without which agricultural production is not possible. Protection of watersheds without balance to protecting other resources such as agricultural lands will result in movement of pests between boundaries leading to endless management issues. Comprehensive programs must include management across land uses.

The pandemic resulted in a temporary focus on local agricultural production and as import abundance returned focus lapsed. The State invests resources into entities such as ADC to increase local agricultural production. Management of agricultural invasive species is critical to ensure the success of these investments. Recent challenges in melon fly outbreaks impacting cucurbit and melon production in Hawaii has received little attention outside of UH-CTAHR extension agents. It dramatically reduced local production with farmers experiencing major economic loss but few outside of the industry know about it as imports have replaced local production. These imports create risk to the State as inspection capacity by the Department is at an all time low and global movement of product can easily introduce new pests into the islands.

Funding of this measure accompanied with a clear strategic plan by the Department on protection of the State from invasive species across the board is in the interest of the State.

Your strong support of this measure is appreciated.



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 13, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2419, SD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, 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 strongly supports SB 2419, SD1, 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 inconsistent 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 number of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide necessary 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.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB2419 SD1
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Date: Wednesday, March 13, 2024
Time: 8:30 AM
Place: Conference Room 325

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

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of SB2419 SD1**, 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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

March 12, 2024

To: Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloe, and the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Subject: **Support of SB2419 SD1**

Aloha,

Food+Policy is in support of bill **SB2419 SD1**, which will stabilize and strengthen Hawaii's biosecurity program and the methods it will conduct in pest management. This bill will help grow the local agricultural industry in Hawaii, further develop the knowledge and practice of pest management, avoidance, and prevention by developing a program within agricultural areas. SB2419 proposes new improvements to address existing and or emerging insects, diseases, pests, or other organisms that are detrimental to agriculture. This element is critical in ensuring the sustainability of Hawaii's agriculture, while also expanding upon best management practices and market trends. For example, passing of SB2419 SD1 could lead to eradication of the Rhinoceros Coconut Beetle that has been ravaging coconut trees and threatens coconut production/ harvesting. Similar to how Hawaii's land and climate is unique to its borders, the pests and domination of invasive species are respectfully unique and thus require special care and consideration within agricultural production and post-harvest treatments. Pest management and eradication of invasive species is furthermore important in protecting valuable food and water resources. This factor is particularly critical to protect considering the geographic isolation of the Hawaiian Islands and the vulnerability that creates. A solution to avoiding and mitigating introduction of an invasive specie/pest proposed by SB2419 SD1 is to develop a diagnostic for identifying evolving pests or diseases, so the state is better prepared ahead of time with a set of guidelines to follow. Providing information to the public on invasive species or pests places power into their hands and widens the net of impact. Lastly, this bill will further aid in reducing reliance on imports by leveraging in-state alternatives to labor and resources instead, which is a win for the state in many regards.

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawaii communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

Food+Policy kindly asks that you **pass bill SB2419 SD1**.

Mahalo for your time and attention on this matter,

Kawika Kahiapo + Hawaii Food+ Policy Team

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2024, the cohort of interns are undergrads and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.

SB-2419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:00:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to appropriating moneys for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

SB-2419-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 5:21:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/13/2024 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2419 because ensuring biosecurity by combatting invasive pests takes a great deal of resources, and resources cost money. The government should not be penny wise pound foolish. If we don't fund the necessary biosecurity measures today, the State and its citizens will have to pay exponentially more in the future.

I am a Certified Arborist with my own consulting business on Oahu.