

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2419. 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.

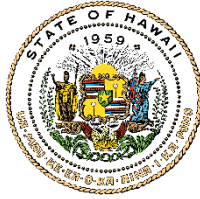
The Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program is vital to the public's health and welfare, and therefore, the comprehensive strategy must fully be executed to prevent and control increasing invasive species threats from entering and spreading throughout the State. Although inspections are critical, 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.



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 & ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, January 31, 2024
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 2419 proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) 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.**

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 upon by other 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. Recent statistics for Hawai'i estimated that 80% of commodities and 90% of food are imported, and over six million people visit Hawai'i each year (pre-CoVID numbers) making border biosecurity critical for preventing new invasive species from arriving and spreading in Hawai'i.

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

For too long HDOA has been underfunded and understaffed to carry out the immensity of their authority. They are the State department mandated to implement Hawai'i's biosecurity program. HDOA plays an important role in inspecting cargo and passengers at all ports of entry for the importation of potentially harmful pests and regulating the importation and possession of nondomestic animals and microorganisms. HDOA's 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.

This bill is a much-needed boost to HDOA that will allow it to increase its capacity and operations to meet the growing needs and challenges Hawai'i 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, of which both the Department and HDOA endorsed and are lead agencies. Those actions include additional inspectors at HDOA's 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 and local 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.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:38:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Maui County Farm Bureau strongly supports SB 2419. Our farmers and ranchers are constantly facing new pests and diseases. Once these pests become established, it is these operations that absorb the costs to control and mitigate the damage. Please support SB 2419. Mahalo.



January 26, 2024

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of SB 2419 (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.)

Wednesday, January 31, 2014, at 1:00 p.m., in Conference Room 224 and 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**, 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. 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 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** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/28/2024 4:28:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My only comment other than I of course support increased inspections at all levels, is the dollar amount appropriated seems way too meager to make any meaningful changes.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB2419
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024
Time: 1 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

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

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:02:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Gottlieb	Testifying for Ponoholo Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important measure

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/29/2024 11:00:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Testifying for Hawaii Young Republicans	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

On behalf of Hawaii Young Republicans, we support this bill. Enhancing our biosecurity capabilities and readiness is crucial to ensuring the safety of Hawaii. We urge the committee to support this legislation.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

January 31, 2024 1:00 PM Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of:

SB2419: RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

SB2358: RELATING TO THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SB2359: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

SB2411: RELATING TO THE TWO-LINED SPITTLEBUG

SB2559: RELATING TO INVASIVE PESTS

SB2560: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Committee Members,

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS SB2419, SB2358, SB2359, SB2411, SB2559, and SB2560**, which will help to mitigate the ongoing and future impacts of invasive pests on our native ecosystems, cultural practices, food security, public health, economy, and the overall quality of life of present and future generations.

Hawai'i's history provides us with a host of lessons regarding the wide-ranging and potentially irreversible damage that invasive species can inflict on our islands and ways of life. Invasive plants and wildlife have overtaken entire watersheds, impacting not just native habitat but also reducing aquifer recharge, increasing our vulnerability to floods and wildfires, and smothering our nearshore reefs and waters with runoff. Parasites and other pests have impacted local food production and increased the use of toxic pesticides on farms and in home gardens, risking both public health as well as threatening stream and nearshore species critical to our aquatic ecosystems. Invasive animals have also extirpated native species, continue to threaten others with outright extinction, and continue to undermine public health by acting as vectors for zoonotic diseases. Most recently, the spread of invasive pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, hala scale, and others will require substantial and long-needed policies and investments over the long-term, to prevent additional and even greater impacts to our islands and our future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club strongly supports the much needed policies and investments contemplated in these measures. More financial support is critical for the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council to fulfill its biosecurity mission; funding for targeted campaigns to address the little fire ant and two-lined spittlebug are critical to preventing the ecological, cultural, agricultural, public health, and economic impacts of these pests; and inspection and quarantine authorities for businesses and public land lessees are vital to addressing long-



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

neglected gaps in invasive pest detection and eradication – gaps that have likely contributed to the establishment of coconut rhinoceros beetle on O'ahu, and the ongoing spread of little fire ants across the islands.

Much remains uncertain as we continue to reckon with the consequences of Hawai'i's longstanding failure to enact critical biosecurity protections. However, it is certain that much stronger action, including but not limited to the proposals in the aforementioned bills, will be necessary to mitigate or prevent the worst of these and other future impacts to our lives and that of our children and future generations.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2419, SB2358, SB2359, SB2411, SB2559, and SB2560. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

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

SB2419, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
Sen AEN Hearing – 1:00 PM
Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Sen AEN 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.



LATE

Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

1/30/24

To: Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Subject: **SB2419**: Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Biosecurity Program Funding

Aloha,

Food+Policy **supports** bill SB2419, which will stabilize and strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity and the methods to do so. This bill will also help grow the local agricultural industry in Hawai'i, expanding upon the knowledge and practice of pest management, avoidance, and prevention. Pest management and the like is critical in protecting valuable food and water resources, critical to protect considering the geographic isolation of the Hawaiian Islands and vulnerability that creates. Most importantly, this bill will further aid in reducing reliance on imports by leveraging in-state alternatives instead.

I appreciate your time.

Mahalo,
Jeanette Burdick & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

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.



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

January 31, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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, 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 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.



LATE

January 23, 2024

Subject: Testimony to the Hawai'i State Senate regarding Senate Bill 2419 "Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity"

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) in **strong support** of Senate Bill 2419 which would appropriate funding to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to bolster the State's biosecurity.

Invasive species pose severe risks to the ecological health, economic health, and human health of our island communities. The agricultural industry in particular faces increasing costs from expanding populations of pest species like little fire ant that are already spreading across our state, but also continuous threats from species that have not yet arrived on our shores. Increased biosecurity will help to protect the industry from these threats by limiting the inter and intra island spread of problematic species while strengthening preventative layers of protection from invasive species that have not yet infiltrated our state.

Many biosecurity initiatives, including several of those outlined specifically in this piece of legislation, are the least expensive means of protection from invasive species threats. Even a rapid response to an early detection of a high-impact invasive species will cost more than preventing the incursion in the first place. Costs attributed to managing invasive species exceed \$26 billion annually in North America and the impacts from invasive species are projected to quadruple each decade globally. Given that invasive species impact island communities more drastically than large landmasses, the cost savings for the State would be monumental when preventing the next little fire ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) or coconut rhinoceros beetle (*Oryctes rhinoceros*) invasion.

Building a more robust biosecurity system will not only save on costs in the long run, but it will also help to protect our communities' health and our watersheds. Pests like the little fire ant deliver a painful sting that can cause allergic reactions in humans and pet blindness. Invasive super-weeds like miconia (*Miconia clavescens*) divert water away from aquifers and promote excessive erosion and flooding. Improved biosecurity means improved protection from these and the countless other threats that our islands face from invasive alien species on a daily basis.

We very much appreciate your continuing leadership and support for invasive species management. We hope that you will be able to help us yet again on this critical next step.

For these reasons I lend OISC's full support behind SB 2419 and thank the Committee for providing our organization with the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,



Nate Dube
Manager, O'ahu Invasive species Committee



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

SB2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Wednesday, January 31, 2024, 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **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.

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



SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 10:58:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2419, 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.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/27/2024 10:20:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Jane Agas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because I want more local agriculture and less invasive species.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:01:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Recognizing the threat of invasive species, port security is essential to Hawaii's ongoing livelihood. Funding this foundational element of Hawaii's biosecurity program saves the state billions of dollars long-term.

Also, knowing that these positions are difficult to fill and also difficult to retain, I would like to see an increase in salary for the inspector positions to try and resolve this problem.

Please consider increasing the pay scale for this essential position and building in educational MQ alternatives like HDOA on-the-job trainings.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:04:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

January 31, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2419

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference 1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support SB 2419, 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 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.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Molly Mamari

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:06:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Phillipson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support SB 2419, 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 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.

Thankyou for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Best regards

Mark Phillipson

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:36:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Esther Kia'aina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2419.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 12:29:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii must have a workable Biosecurity Plan in place to address the invasive pests and diseases that we deal with and adequate funding for Hawaii Department of Agriculture resources and inspectors to get the job done.

Kauai Aloha,

Johnny Gordines

Tropical Flowers Express



January 31, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND
ENVIRONMENT
TESTIMONY ON SB 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

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

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:15:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 1:59:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committees:

I strongly support SB 2419, 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 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.

Thankyou for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/30/2024 3:30:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary R Ueunten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In behalf of Ueunten Farm, I strongly support SB2419 Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity. We are a small generational family farm on Kauai with a 90 year history of supplying our community with fresh produce. Invasive species have increasingly, negatively affected our ability to supply our community. We now have to fence to keep Wild Pigs out of fields, net our trees to keep Parakeets from damaging our fruits and avoid growing crops that are susceptible to disease and insect damage. We are constantly in search of new crops and clean planting materials. The Little Fire Ant is a significant concern as it attacks the farmer and is a health concern to all who enter the farm. We ask for your assistance and support for agriculture and our mission to feed our community.

LATE

SB-2419

Submitted on: 1/31/2024 1:16:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/31/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Mahalo for your attention to this very important issue within our state. I support the efforts to enhance our biosecurity.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane