

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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS & MEANS

Friday, February 23, 2024
10:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 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 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 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. Recent statistics for Hawai'i, estimated that 80% of commodities and 90% of food are imported, 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.

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 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.

Senate Bill 2419 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 Hawai'i 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 the Department of Agriculture 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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FEBRUARY 23, 2024
10:30 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki 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.





HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
VICE CHAIR
HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT III
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5003
FAX: (808) 768-1223
EMAIL: ekiaaina@honolulu.gov

February 20, 2024

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I write in support of **SB 2419 – Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity**. This measure appropriates \$2.5 million of general funds to fund the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program to support their preventative efforts against the rise of invasive species and other elements detrimental to agriculture.

Invasive species continue to be a serious concern for communities across Hawai'i. In 2023, infestations of Little Fire Ants were reported across the Windward side of O'ahu, and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles and Coqui Frogs have become nuisances for farmers and residents alike. Organizations including the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and the Hawai'i Ant Lab, as well as State Departments of Agriculture and Land and Natural Resources, have reached out to residents to offer resources and tips to inform and empower our communities against these pests.

Supporting projects that will impact invasive species in our State is necessary to bolster our defenses against invasive species. Funding for this program will help the Department of Agriculture in the development of clean seed and new varietal improvements to address existing and emerging insects, diseases, pests, or other organisms detrimental to agriculture; development of production and post-harvest treatments; development and implementation of diagnostics to quickly and reliably identify new and evolving pests and diseases; and development of pest management programs in agricultural production areas. These efforts will be crucial to prevent introduction of new invasive species and diseases that will negatively impact our agriculture.

The Honolulu City Council supports invasive species control and mitigation efforts, and recognizes that these efforts require collaboration between the counties and the State of Hawai'i. The Council recently adopted Honolulu City Council Resolution 23-308, CD1, FD1, recognizing these principals.

I urge your support of SB 2419.



RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THAT THE COUNTIES OF HAWAII HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL EFFORTS AND URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATIVELY ADVANCE THOSE EFFORTS IN THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Hawai'i is a remote volcanic archipelago that is a biodiversity hotspot and as much as 90 percent of its native flora and fauna are endemic to the islands that are found nowhere else in the world and are particularly vulnerable to competition from invasive species; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are non-native organisms that adapt easily to a new area, reproduce quickly, and harm the environment and native flora and fauna; and

WHEREAS, without effective management, invasive species will cause billions of dollars in damage to Hawai'i's agriculture, environment, and economy, and lead to negative impacts to Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices, human health, recreational activities, and our unique way of life; and

WHEREAS, the threat posed by invasive species is amplified by climate change and increased air and sea travel to Hawai'i, exacerbates the risks presented by natural disasters, and, perhaps most devastatingly, often results in irreversible damage to our natural and cultural environment; and

WHEREAS, invasive species undermine strategies for climate preparedness and resilience, as their impacts may fundamentally alter natural and built systems, including freshwater supply and local food resources; and

WHEREAS, invasive species are already appearing, spreading, or well established within the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), examples of which include the exploding population of coconut rhinoceros beetles; the spread of little fire ants in Windward communities and beyond; the growing coqui frog populations in Waimānalo and Pālolo Valleys; the invasive soft coral recently discovered at Pu'uloa (Pearl Harbor); cane tibouchina, miconia, invasive albizia trees, and other invasive plant species that are proliferating in native watershed forests and displacing native species; and the fungal pathogen known as Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai'i ("State"), through its Department of Land and Natural Resources ("DLNR"), is responsible for protecting aquatic and terrestrial



RESOLUTION

resources and, through its Department of Agriculture, is responsible for preventing the introduction of invasive species into the State; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council ("HISC"), a State interagency board administratively attached to the DLNR, provides policy direction, coordination, and planning among State departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives to control and eradicate invasive species and prevent their introduction into Hawai'i; and

WHEREAS, the HISC currently receives \$5.75 million from the State to support programs, including county-specific invasive species committees, but the estimated funding required to operate an optimal biosecurity program for the State exceeds \$50 million per year; and

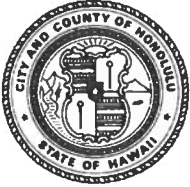
WHEREAS, given the constraints of current State funding to deal with invasive species and the risk of significant harm across the counties, it behooves the counties to proactively and collaboratively address the unique challenges and issues presented by invasive species in their respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the Big Island, Kaua'i, Maui, and O'ahu Invasive Species Committees are projects of the University of Hawai'i-Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit that are voluntary partnerships of government, private and non-profit organizations, and volunteers; and

WHEREAS, these invasive species committees focus on preventing and controlling invasive species in their respective counties, surveying for and identifying threats, conducting control activities on public and private property, advancing research and development of invasive species control tools and techniques, providing education and outreach to local residents, and filling the gaps not addressed by other invasive species control programs; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Invasive Species Committee ("MISC") receives substantial annual funding from the County of Maui, which, in part, allows the MISC to have a staff of over 30, including four field crews, and to accomplish major achievements such as the pioneering use of helicopters and other means over more than five years to eradicate little fire ants from an area in East Maui; and

WHEREAS, the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee receives comparably very little funding from the City and has a staff of less than half that of the MISC to conduct survey, control, and education and outreach activities, and, more generally, to take on



RESOLUTION

the invasive species issues for O'ahu left unaddressed by State departments and agencies; and

WHEREAS, the City Council ("Council") has a long and well established record of adopting measures to enhance and protect the local environment and residents' quality of life generally; the Council also has addressed the issue of invasive species, a few examples of which include the prioritization of the use of certain native plants in shoreline and beach parks, support for the establishment of a project to promote awareness of invasive species among farmers, and routinely placing conditions on development approvals under the Council's purview intended to limit the spread of invasive species; and

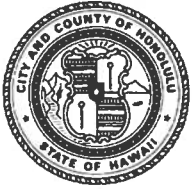
WHEREAS, City operations—ranging from the maintenance of its many parks and other public lands, operation of extensive infrastructure to provide water to the island and its residents, and management of waste to the regulation of land development—touch nearly every part of the island and, as such, have a significant effect on the spread or prevention and control of invasive species on O'ahu; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it recognizes that the counties of Hawai'i have an important role in invasive species control efforts and urges the City Administration to collaboratively advance those efforts in the City and County of Honolulu; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council supports the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee's efforts in conducting survey, control, education and outreach, and other activities in the City; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Administration is requested to report to the Council on the following no later than 180 days after the adoption of this resolution:

1. The City's current and planned efforts related to invasive species control;
2. The City departments that manage, work on, or affect the land in a way that may contribute to the spread or prevention and control of invasive species;
3. The currently implemented and planned best management practices related to invasive species; and



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 23-308, CD1, FD1

RESOLUTION

- 4. The City's recommendations to provide its support to the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee and other entities working to prevent, detect, and control invasive species on O'ahu; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Mayor, the Managing Director, the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Chairperson of the Hawai'i Board of Agriculture, the members of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, and the Manager of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee.

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'aina

Matt Weyer

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

December 28, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII
CERTIFICATE

RESOLUTION 23-308, CD1, FD1

Introduced: 12/28/23 By: ESTHER KIA'ĀINA
MATT WEYER Committee: HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND
HEALTH (HSH)

Title: RECOGNIZING THAT THE COUNTIES OF HAWAII HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
EFFORTS AND URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO COLLABORATIVELY ADVANCE THOSE EFFORTS IN THE
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Voting Legend: * = Aye w/Reservations

| | | |
|----------|-------|--|
| 12/28/23 | INTRO | Introduced. |
| 01/10/24 | HSH | Reported out for adoption as amended in CD1 form. CR-25(24) 5 AYES: DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, TULBA, WEYER |
| 01/24/24 | CCL | Amended to handcarried FD1. OCS2024-0061/1/24/2024 11:15 AM 8 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 1 ABSENT: TUPOLA |
| 01/24/24 | CCL | Committee report and Resolution were adopted. 8 AYES: CORDERO, DOS SANTOS-TAM, KIA'ĀINA, OKIMOTO, SAY, TULBA, WATERS, WEYER 1 ABSENT: TUPOLA |

I hereby certify that the above is a true record of action by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu on this
RESOLUTION.


GLEN I. TAKAHASHI, CITY CLERK


TOMMY WATERS, CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/17/2024 12:33:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

| 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 once again offer testimony *in support* of this legislation. Biosecurity is a crucial issue for our state and we are pleased to have joined the voices of others supporting this bill previously. Will continue to support this bill through the legislative process.



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 23, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:30 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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, 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.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawaii'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawaii'i

Puna, Hawaii'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawaii'i

Kona, Hawaii'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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means 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 SB2419.**

The biosecurity program funded by this bill will provide much-needed resources for the Department of Agriculture to tackle important issues such as clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. These measures are crucial for ensuring the health and viability of our agricultural industry in Hawaii.

By investing in biosecurity, we can help protect our state's crops, livestock, and natural resources from the threat of invasive pests and diseases. This not only safeguards the livelihoods of farmers, but also ensures that we can continue to produce high-quality, safe, and sustainable food for our community.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

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

SB2419, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
WAM Decision-Making Hearing – 10:30 AM
Friday, February 23, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate WAM 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.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 1:15:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Maui County Farm Bureau is in strong support of SB2419. Agriculture is under constant threat of new pests and diseases. Once established, the added costs of production are absorbed by the farmers and ranchers which affect their profitability. Please support SB2419. Mahalo.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Friday, February 23, 2024 — 10:30 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports SB 2419, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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, 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.

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



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of SB2419
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Friday, February 23, 2024
Time: 10:30 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.



THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Friday, February 23, 2024 10:30 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
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.

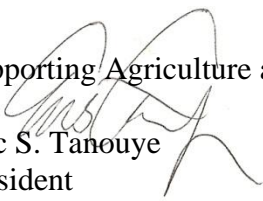
The floriculture industry understands the impact and problems that are caused by invasive species and how they can negatively affect our industry, environment, and community. Invasive pests are an ongoing battle that needs an “all hands on deck” approach.

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



LAND USE RESEARCH
FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

1100 Alakea Street, Suite 408
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 521-4717
www.lurf.org

February 20, 2024

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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.)

Friday, February 23, 2024, at 10:30 a.m.; State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & 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 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** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

SB2419
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Friday, February 23, 2024, 10:30am
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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





Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

February 20, 2024

To: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Aloha,

Food+Policy is in support of bill **SB2419**, which will stabilize and strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity program and the methods it will conduct in pest management. This bill will help grow the local agricultural industry in Hawai'i, expanding upon 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 factor is critical in ensuring the sustainability of Hawaii's agriculture, while also expanding upon best management practices and market trends. 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 critical in protecting valuable food and water resources. This factor is particularly critical to protect considering the geographic isolation of the Hawaiian Islands and vulnerability that creates. A solution to avoiding and mitigating introduction of an invasive specie or pest proposed by SB2419 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. Most importantly, this bill will further aid in reducing reliance on imports by leveraging in-state alternatives to labor and resources instead.

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

Mahalo for your time,

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.



Food+ Policy Internship 2024

food@purplemaia.org

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

Submitted on: 2/22/2024 12:01:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of increasing bio security to make Hawaii a model of how to mitigate pest and diseases; as this problem is affecting more and more areas around the state but also around the world.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:23:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Stand by Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/20/2024 4:26:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 8:36:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

| 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.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 10:03:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Trump | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB2419 and the efforts to improve our state's biosecurity.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 11:53:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill to support the DOA's biosecurity program.

Thank you.

SB-2419

Submitted on: 2/21/2024 9:10:58 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2024 10:30:00 AM

| 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 of Hawaii. Although the Hawai'i 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