

**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**  
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 27, 2024**

**3:30 PM**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 3365, SD2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO PLANT CARE COMPONENTS**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3365, SD2, HD1 which requires the Department of Agriculture (Department) to certify treatments performed on wood chips, compost, and filter socks; and places certain restrictions on the distribution or transportation of plant care components without prior treatment certification from the Department.

The Department strongly supports this bill and recognizes that amendments offered in testimony on the previous draft of this bill have been incorporated into this version of the bill. However, in section (b), the term "entering the State" appears to conflict with HRS 150A-5(9) as a commodity is not considered to have "entered the State" until it has been inspected and passed. As currently drafted, this bill appears to require the Department to inspect and release the regulated goods before all



requirements, i.e. the treatment, are met. The Department suggests the following language for section (b):

“(b) No person shall distribute within the State any plant care component that originated from outside the State unless:

- (1) The plant care component was subjected to a treatment prior to entering the State; or
- (2) The plant care component has been treated immediately after arrival in the State, as certified by the department of agriculture.”

Additionally, the Department suggests the definition of “Plant care component” be amended as follows:

“Plant care component” or “component” means any quantity of wood chips or compost that is used in the care or propagation of plants, or filter socks.”

The suggested change is necessary to clarify the specific types of wood chips or compost that are subject to regulation. There are other wood chips that are used for cooking, livestock or animal bedding, fuel for fires, or processed for indoor decorative purposes, which present lower risks.

This bill will provide the Department with another way to protect the State against invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 3365, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
3:30 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 3365, SD2, HD1**, which requires the Department of Agriculture to certify treatments performed on wood chips, compost, and filter socks and places certain restrictions on the distribution or transportation of plant care components without prior treatment certification from the Department.

HFB recognizes the importance of preventing destructive invasive species from entering the State and how difficult it is to manage those that become established in our islands. We appreciate the difficult work of HDOA and its partners in preventing entry and their efforts to eradicate or control these detrimental animals, insects, weeds, diseases, and other pests.

HFB suggests amending the bill to require that Certification and Treatment be conducted in the state (not prior to shipment) to control the chain of custody and ensure it is done locally. This would require that all containers are treated upon arrival at a state DOA-certified facility before being released to the designated customer.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments and your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.



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

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports SB3365.**

SB3365 directly addresses a critical issue affecting our islands: the threat of invasive pests on agricultural operations. Our members, from Kauai to Kohala, have increasingly voiced concern over how these pests impact their farms and threaten their livelihoods. This bill's requirement for the Department of Agriculture to certify treatments on plant care components like soil and compost is a proactive step towards protecting our agriculture and ecosystems.

After establishing on Oahu, coconut rhinoceros beetle were found on Kauai and Maui during 2023. Wood chips and compost are a known vector for this pest. Hawaii Farmers Union supports the spread of conservation agricultural practices like mulch and compost application, but not at the cost of knowingly spreading invasive species.

A potential concern with this bill is that the entirety of costs is placed on plant care component producers and vendors. It is thus likely that such costs would be passed onto their costumers, including farmers. We hope that this body will entertain future legislation to lower the costs of production, as this necessary one may cause an increae.

By ensuring these materials are treated and certified before distribution, SB3365 will significantly mitigate the risk of pest infestations, safeguarding our agricultural industry and the environment. This is not just a legislative measure but a necessary action for the sustainability and security of Hawaii's farming future.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF