

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND JUDICIARY

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2025
10:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 016 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 1449, HD2
RELATING TO PLANT CARE COMPONENTS

Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Richards and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1449, HD2 relating to plant care components. The bill authorizes the Department of Agriculture (Department) to adopt rules and establishes administrative penalties to establish and enforce the plant care component program and appropriates funds and establishes positions for purposes of the plant care component program, effective 7/1/3000.

The Department supports this measure and appreciates the ability to establish rules that enable the Department to clearly effectuate the program, including defining specific restrictions on movement, establishment of fees and penalties, including inclusion of the Department's prior suggested changes.

The Department is appreciative of the inclusion of inspection staff to effectuate this program. The Department believes that the inclusion of (7) Plant Quarantine Inspector IIIs (3-O'ahu, 1 each in Kaua'i, Maui, Hilo, and Kona) and (1) Plant Quarantine



Inspector IV (O'ahu) should suffice. The estimated annual salary costs would be \$471,168 (7 x \$58,296 + \$63,096).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 19, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

TESTIMONY ON HB 1449, HD2
RELATING TO PLANT CARE COMPONENTS

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
10:00 AM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Rhoads, Vice-Chairs Richards, and Members of the Committee:

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

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1449, HD2, which authorizes the Department of Agriculture to adopt rules and establishes administrative penalties to establish and enforce the plant care component program and appropriates funds and establishes positions for purposes of the plant care component program.

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.

Properly treating plant care components before they are distributed or transported within and from the State would help prevent invasive species from entering and spreading throughout the State. The Legislature addressed this concern with Act 197, Session Laws of Hawaii 2024, by requiring the Department of Agriculture to certify treatments performed on wood chips, compost, and filter socks and placing certain restrictions on distributing or transporting plant care components without prior treatment certification from the HDOA.

Proper resources, authorities, and funding for HDOA are critical for protecting 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. This measure will provide HDOA with tools and resources to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i by authorizing the HDOA to adopt rules and administrative penalties related to the program. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.