

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEAN M. MATSUKAWA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**JANUARY 29, 2025
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 562
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 562 relating to invasive species. The bill establishes a Plant Nursery Registry Program to regulate the sale of nursery stock. Requires certain plant nurseries to register with the Department of Agriculture. The Department supports the intent of this measure as a means of assisting in managing the spread of pests and offers comments and suggested changes.

Ultimately, the Department believes that the specific requirements related to a Plant Nursery Registration Program, which this measure describes, such as how a nursery should register; specific requirements for apply for and obtaining a registration; specific requirements for maintaining a registration; inspection frequency; quarantine measures such as those in the proposed 150A-E on page 9; the specific fee structures for the registration and inspections; etc. should be enacted via Administrative Rules so those that are directly affected can participate in the rulemaking process. It should be noted that this measure does not enable the Department to create rules for this



program, though on page 14, line 11, proposed HRS 150A-G references “ any rules adopted under this part.”

The Department suggests amending the definition of “Best management practices” to read as:

“Best management practices” means any process, action, or combinations thereof, that provide effective means of preventing, reducing, or addressing pest, insect and plant disease issues.”

The change is necessary because the current definition appears to set specific requirements on what can be done, whereas the purpose of best management practices is to encourage the person to enact or maintain effective processes that they may already have or are comfortable with, not necessarily what is most cost effective or based on the best available science.

The Department believes that the addition of the new definitions, “High-priority pest” and “Non-quarantine pest” are unnecessary and burdensome as it creates multiple pest lists to be aware of for compliance and to subsequently upkeep. The Department already has the ability to designate a pest, as currently defined in HRS 150A-2 and should a specific pest become widely established or eradicated, it can be removed. With the proposed removal of these definitions, the Department suggests changing all references to “High-priority pest” to “pest” and removing references to “Non-quarantine pest”, throughout the entirety of the measure. With the removal of “Non-quarantine pest”, the definition of “effective control” should also be removed including all applicable associated language.

The Department believes that the definition of “Standards of nursery cleanliness” should be removed and references to it, replaced with “best management practices” as this definition would include those requirements defined in the “Standards of nursely cleanliness”.

The Department believes the definition “Nursery stock” needs to be clarified. As currently drafted is unclear which segments of plant growers are intended to be covered under this definition. Due to the inclusion of the phrase “plants used to produce cut flowers” it is unclear if the intent is to also manage the movement of the cut flowers produced by these plants as these plants do not move and cannot spread a pest, which this measure seeks to manage. If managing the movement of cut flowers is intended, cut foliage, fresh fruit, or vegetables likely should be included. If the intent is to only manage live plants and propagative plant parts, the reference to cut flowers should be removed. It should be noted that pest management for non-propagative material such as cut flowers, foliage, fruit or vegetables is quite different than live plants and would need a different set of regulations to manage. Also, the term “that may be sold for propagation” on page 5, line 1, should be removed as it is duplicative within the proposed definition.

The Department notes that this measure does not cover pop-up sales such as craft fairs or fundraising events. While these events are transient and generally last 1-2 days, they tend to centralize large numbers of smaller producers and often occur during times of high seasonal demand (i.e. Christmas, Mother’s Day, Valentine’s Day) and should likely be covered if the intent is to manage all “nursery stock” movement.

On page 7, the Department has concerns about the proposed section HRS 150A-C as it requires registrants to sign a certification agreeing to terms that are unspecified, particularly as it relates to implementation of best management practices for non-quarantine pests and standards of nursery cleanliness, both of which do not currently exist, or to agree to implement unknown future best management practices required by the Department. The Department believes that this section should not rely purely on the registrants attestation, but that the Department should be conducting inspections on each location after a person applies for a registration and only subsequently listing them on the Department’s website after the inspection is done and compliance can be determined. By posting the registrations online without any inspection verifying the claims the registrant is attesting to, it could provide a false

sense of security that any entity under this program is acting in good faith as it relates to pest management. This would be further exacerbated because there are no resources allocated to this measure for staffing. By inspecting prior to registering a location, the Department is able to determine if the registrant is even able to comply with the terms and the Department believes this is a better way to effectuate this measure. The inspections would also have an added benefit of being able to directly answer site-specific questions that the Department could not get via a registration form.

On Page 9, beginning on line 4, proposed section HRS 150A-E enables inspection only during reasonable business hours. Coqui frogs are only active at night, but the Department doesn't foresee this issue impeding implementation should this measure pass. Additionally, the Department believes that it should be clarified that dwellings or other structures that are not associated with the nursery stock at the location. This is particularly important to clarify as it relates to smaller growers, especially those who use their residential property to grow nursery stock, or retailers, where only the sales areas should be covered. Additionally, the Department believes that on page 11, beginning on line 2, HRS 150A-E(d) should be amended to read:

" . . . or material at the location, other than for activities [~~to mitigate any high-priority pest or other pest or to otherwise~~] comply with the order or under the direction of the department."

On page 11, beginning on line 7, the Department suggests the following change for consistency:

" . . . the department shall provide, in writing, to the [~~owner, operator, or~~] person [~~in-charge~~] who registered the location:"

On page 11, line 15, the department suggests the following change for consistency:

"(3) Notice that the [~~owner, operator, or~~] person [~~in charge~~] who registered the location . . ."

On page 11, starting at line 20, the Department believes proposed section HRS 150A-E(f) is unnecessary and should be removed as HRS 141-6, Appeal from inspector's decision, already exists and enables any person to have a hearing before the Board of Agriculture (Board) regarding inspector decisions. Additionally, Subchapter 5 of Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-1 already details a process for contested case proceedings.

On page 12, line 4, the Department believes the creation of new section 150A-F is unnecessary. The Department does not have a list of "high-priority pests" or "non-quarantine pests" that would require a procedure to exempt the public hearing requirements of Chapter 91, HRS.

On page 14, beginning at line 14, the entire proposed section HRS 150A-H should be incorporated into existing HRS 150A-14 so that all penalties are housed within a single section in HRS 150A.

On page 15, line 6, the creation of a new Part III relating to "Nursery registration required" is likely to have minimal impact to Plant Nursery registrants. First, the Department has no way of determining if a person is above the \$2,500 income threshold referenced in HRS 150A-B(c), so withholding of services will be difficult, particularly as it relates to smaller growers, or those that buy and resell plants intermittently. Additionally, if the person comes for inspection/certification services at a Department office or these functions are done at the port of entry, this provision would appear to not apply to those situations. Additionally, the proposed HRS 150A-B(e), which references this section, should be removed as it is duplicative of the restrictions that this section creates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

Tony Vera
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Maureen Datta
Kona, Hawai'i

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 SB562.**

Invasive species pose a significant threat to Hawaii's native ecosystems, outcompeting local flora, disrupting natural habitats, and threaten the viability of our farming operations. The registry will provide a framework for monitoring and managing plant nursery activities, ensuring that nurseries adhere to guidelines that prevent the introduction and spread of harmful species. This proactive measure will not only help to preserve Hawaii's natural landscape but also protect the long-term productivity of our agricultural resources.

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hāna, Maui

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mason Scharer
Haleakalā, Maui

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahālāwai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Kilia Avelino-Purdy
Moloka'i

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimānalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kaua'i



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

SUBJECT: Testimony in Strong Support of SB562 “Relating to Invasive Species”

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

I am writing in strong support of SB562 “Relating to Invasive Species” on behalf of the O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC).

A registration program for anyone engaged in the production and sale of nursery stock would be an incredible tool to help mitigate the spread of problematic invasive species. The nursery trade is one of the critical pathways that invasive species are spreading throughout the State and this model will provide the Department of Agriculture (DOA) with increased oversight to regulate this pathway. Other States throughout the country utilize similar systems that would allow for regular inspections necessary for certification and licensure in the nursery trade. The development of such a program could be simple and straightforward both for the Department and the registrants if facilitated online. This tool would be massively impactful for invasive species management and limiting the spread of problematic species that threaten our State.

OISC is grateful for the continued support from all State departments, the legislature, and the members of this Committee. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Nate Dube, OISC Manager



The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
1:00 PM Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 562

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 562, *Relating to Invasive Species***, which establishes a registration program for persons directly engaged with the production or sale of nursery stock.

As SB 562 notes in section 1, many states have programs that require persons that grow, distribute, or sell nursery stock to be licensed or certified and regularly inspected. Many of these programs have extensive requirements. For example, Alabama requires an annual inspection certificate for any seller of nursery stock with a fee between \$50 and \$230 based on the previous year's volume of sales. (Ala. Code § 2-25-6) Delaware has a comprehensive program that requires a license and annual nursery inspection certificate, and authorizes unannounced inspections as deemed necessary.¹ (Del Code tit. 3, §§ 1302, 1303) Tennessee requires licenses and authorizes their Department of Agriculture to enter any property or location where plants are grown or kept for sale or distribution during normal business hours, as often as the department deems necessary for the prevention or mitigation of pests, pest plants, and diseases. (TCA §43-6-106; Tenn. Comp. R&Regs. 0080-06-01-.05) The California Department of Food and Agriculture also has a nursery license program. According to their website, "Nursery stock is the highest risk pathway for the movement of plant pests worldwide.

¹ For instance, Delaware's nursery licensing program requires: "(a) Any person(s), grower(s), agent(s), broker(s), dealer(s), mail-order merchant(s), commission merchant(s), consignor(s), landscaper(s), florist(s), greenhouse operator(s), chain store operator(s), garden center operator(s), roadside market operator(s), producer(s) or owner(s) engaged directly with the distribution of plants, plant products, plant material, nursery stock or horticultural products, is required to inform the Department of the existence of their operation and to obtain a nursery license prior to initiating business operations." (Del. Code Ann. tit. 3, § 1302)

Maintaining a system of clean, healthy nursery stock is essential to the protection of California's agriculture and environment." (<https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/pe/nsc/nursery/>)

The proposed program would also provide HDOA with an up-to-date list of businesses that grow and sell nursery stock, allowing HDOA to efficiently provide the industry with State and Federal quarantine notices, best management practices, new pest alerts, and other useful information.

We are listing this information to highlight that SB 562 does not propose a novel or onerous program. Instead, requiring persons directly engaged with the production or sale of nursery stock to register with HDOA, not sell items infested with high-impact pests, and use best management practices is sensible legislation that is long overdue.

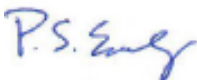
We note that to begin the roll-out of this program, HDOA would need only to develop an online registration and certification form and paper printouts of that form. The Board of Agriculture, using the procedures set out in SB 562, which are the same procedures in HDOA's administrative rules for the amendment of animal and microorganism import lists (HRS §150A-6.6; HAR §§4-71-4.2, 4-71A-17), could designate the first list of "high-priority pests" and "non-quarantine pests" for each island after public input and consideration. We believe that even if a perfect, comprehensive registration program cannot be implemented immediately, we can still start the process and build the program as capacity and resources allow.

Mahalo for your consideration of our testimony on this important biosecurity measure.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 224
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 1:00 P.M.**

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Members of the committee on Agriculture and Environment

COMMENTS ON SB562 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to share our **COMMENTS on SB562**.

The Chamber strongly believes that one of the greatest challenges in our island state is the transfer of invasive species through the sale of plants between islands. In addition to this, the importation of plants that bypass agricultural inspections further expands opportunities for invasive species to establish themselves in new locations, where mitigation measures may no longer be effective. These species can significantly alter our environment, economy, and social well-being. We advocate for funding to focus on increasing the number of inspectors and exploring options for quarantining plants prior to interisland shipping to ensure they are not transporting invasive species.

We encourage the legislature to collaborate with the nursery, agriculture, and plant industries in the development of certain aspects of this bill prior to its passage. It is important to ensure that the list of invasive species is accompanied by appropriate actions, such as quarantines and eradication efforts. Additionally, we are concerned about the introduction of a new nursery registration process and its potential impacts on businesses. We view this as another opportunity for the legislature to engage with the industry to explore options for licenses and fees, ultimately working together to establish an effective accountability program.

For these reasons, we are providing **COMMENTS on SB562**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

January 29, 2024

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224

In SUPPORT of:

SB251: RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

SB562: 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 SB251 and SB562**, 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, two-lined spittlebug, 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 proposals in these measures, to address a major and largely unaddressed vector for the introduction and spread of invasive species: plant nurseries.

A placard system as proposed in SB251 will encourage responsible and proactive prevention and control practices by nurseries, facilitate interventions by the Department of Agriculture to prevent and address infestations, and allow consumers to make better informed decisions about the risk of purchasing and bringing home infested plants or other nursery products from any given business.

The comprehensive nursery registration program in SB562, which provides for best



management practices, mandatory reporting of high priority pests, prohibitions on the sale of nursery stock infested with invasive species, administrative inspections, and quarantine authorities, along with a streamlined process for designating new pest species, will also address longstanding regulatory gaps that have allowed nurseries to harbor, transport, and sell pest-infested plants and other products.

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** these measures. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:06:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Bill needs to be more specific instead of saying certain companies. Define certain.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:17:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Faccenda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure as a common-sense regulation on an industry which has the potential to permanently alter the landscape of the islands through the spread of pests such as LFA or coqui frog contained within pots. You wouldn't want to eat at a restaurant with a rat problem, nor would you want to buy plants from a nursery with a LFA or coqui problem. This program will protect consumers from nurseries which do not adopt best practice measures for the control of pests in the plants which they sell.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:33:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Julie Kuo and I am a concerned O‘ahu resident writing in support of **SB 562**, relating to invasive species, which establishes a registration program for persons directly engaged with the production or sale of nursery stock.

Many states have programs that require persons that grow, distribute, or sell nursery stock to be licensed or certified and regularly inspected. Many of these programs have extensive and effective requirements, including Alabama, Delaware, Tennessee, and California.

The proposed program would also provide HDOA with an up-to-date list of businesses that grow and sell nursery stock, allowing HDOA to efficiently provide the industry with State and Federal quarantine notices, best management practices, new pest alerts, and other useful information.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on this important biosecurity measure.

Mahalo nui loa,

Julie Kuo

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:52:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Fujikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I love buying plants and would like to do so knowing that I am not inadvertently buying plants that are invasive pests or that are infested with invasive pests.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:46:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This could be crucial to managing invasive species at plant nurseries - which are often sources of worrisome pests.

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

My name is Kiana Otsuka, and I am a concerned O'ahu resident writing in support of **SB 562**, relating to invasive species, which establishes a registration program for persons directly engaged with the production or sale of nursery stock.

Many states have programs that require persons that grow, distribute, or sell nursery stock to be licensed or certified and regularly inspected. Many of these programs have extensive requirements, including Alabama, Delaware, Tennessee, and California.

The proposed program would also provide HDOA with an up-to-date list of businesses that grow and sell nursery stock, allowing HDOA to efficiently provide the industry with State and Federal quarantine notices, best management practices, new pest alerts, and other useful information.

Thank you for your consideration of my testimony on this important biosecurity measure.

Mahalo,

Kiana Otsuka

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:44:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of SB562.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:49:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this program as long as it is funded enough to deliver the benefits to the agricultural community it promises. Certification of the nurseries is prioritizing long term health over short term profits. Please make sure to also fund the farmer education and outreach organizations that will assist in certification.

Aloha nō,

- Joe

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:37:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Koa Grabar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB562. Plant nurseries play a significant role in the accidental introduction of invasive and non-native species to Hawai'i, posing a threat to native ecosystems and agriculture. Proper regulation, management, and accountability are essential to help prevent additional non-native species from being shipped here.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:45:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Vynne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:41:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALL plant nurseries should have to register with dept of Ag. Yes to regulating nursery stock.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:17:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the establishment of a Plant Nursery Registration Program.

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:51:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB562, which establishes a Plant Nursery Registration Program under the Department of Agriculture. This program is a critical step toward protecting Hawaii’s agriculture, economy, and environment from invasive species such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ant, and coqui frog.

By requiring nursery registration, implementing best management practices, and maintaining cleanliness standards, SB562 prevents the spread of pest-infested plants. These measures align with successful programs in other states and safeguard Hawaii’s \$81 million nursery industry and unique ecosystem.

Key provisions like annual registration, pest monitoring, and island-specific pest designations ensure accountability and adaptability. SB562 strengthens existing biosecurity efforts and promotes public confidence in local plant nurseries.

I urge the Committee to pass SB562 to support Hawaii’s sustainability, economic resilience, and environmental protection.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa, HI

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:57:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of SB562, which proposes establishing a plant nursery registration program to regulate the sale of nursery stock. Invasive species cause major damage to Hawaii's native ecosystems and agriculture, impact quality of life, and erode cultural connections to culturally significant plants and animals. Sadly, the horticultural industry provides one venue for such pests to reach Hawaii, and also serves as a vector, facilitating the spread of pests across the State. One example of this is the coqui frog, thought to be an accidental introduction to Hawaii Island via the horticultural trade. Coqui in Hawaii reach densities many times greater than their native Puerto Rico, amplifying the impact of their loud calls, which had a negative economic impact on property values, as well as the impacts of their predation of native arthropods. Another example is the Little Fire Ant (LFA). While all ants cause major environmental havoc in Hawaii, which has no native ants, LFA's painful stings and tree-dwelling habit are particularly devastating to agriculture and erode quality of life for anyone who enjoys gardening, hiking, and spending time outdoors. Both of these species have spread across the islands, and one major vector is the horticultural trade. Every time my 79-year-old mother, an avid gardener, or I purchase a plant, I worry about whether we are accidentally introducing a new pest to our shared property. The plant nursery registration program is an important biosecurity tool to combat invasive pest spread.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jane Reppun Beachy

SB-562

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:10:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 1/29/2025 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Nurserys are currently the main vector of Little Fire Ant on Oahu with copanies knowingly spreading the ants just so they can continue to turn a profit. All the while the HDOA has turned their backs and offered liitle support to subsidise treatment & quarentine procedures.

HDOA should already be inspecting all items coming into our state and even interisland. That they continue to allow the interisland spread of some of the worlds worst known invasives species shows a negligent department with poor oversight. Our state needs to do better to protect the fragile ecosystems and ensure border and even inter island biosecurity.