

**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  
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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025  
9:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 252, SD2  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 252, SD2 relating to invasive species. The bill seeks to clarify that the importation of any item or material infested or infected with an insect or other animal, disease, or other pest is prohibited; authorize the Department of Agriculture to inspect any item imported or moved into the State from another part of the continental United States or between the Hawaiian Islands; prohibit the sale of merchandise that a seller knows is infested or infected with a pest; authorize the Department of Agriculture to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials; and clarify penalties for violations. The Department agrees with the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The Department believes the intent of the changes to HRS 150A-5(5) to enable the inspection of other commodities that are not currently subject to required inspection prior to entering the State can assist with determining commodity risk analysis. However, the Department has some concerns that because this measure appears to enable ad-hoc administrative inspections of every item imported into the State or moved inter-island, including persons, there would be a reasonable expectation of the



Department to conduct these administrative inspections in a fair and consistent manner. In order to reasonably accomplish this, significant financial investments, such as those listed below, would be required:

- Significant increases in staff including inspectors, administrative support, and supervisory staff. To effectively implement these inspections, necessary personnel increases are likely orders of magnitude above current staffing levels.
- Consistent funding to obtain and maintain commensurate physical resources (office space, vehicles, equipment, supplies, etc.) needed to conduct the inspections.
- Requires the development of departmental policies to create thresholds on when/where/how these inspections would occur to ensure that they are not being done arbitrarily, with subsequent re-training of all staff statewide; and
- Significant outreach to all importers statewide, interisland shippers, transportation companies, and interisland passengers, the vast majority of which are not currently subject to inspections by HDOA.

The Department is appreciative of the clarifications to HRS 150A-14, but notes that as currently drafted, if during the course of an administrative inspection, should a criminal violation under the “knowingly” standard be discovered, the Department would be unable to enforce these provisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

### VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

### House Committee on AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 12, 2025

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of  
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

### In consideration of SENATE BILL 252 SENATE DRAFT 2 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 252 Senate Draft 2 expands Hawaii Department of Agriculture's regulatory authority to inspect any item imported or moved into the State from another part of the continental United States or between the Hawaiian Islands, prohibits the sale of merchandise that a seller knows is infested or infected with a pest, authorizes the Department of Agriculture to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials, clarifies penalties for violations, and clarifies that the importation of any item or material infested or infected with an insect or other animal, disease, or other pest is prohibited. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure.**

One of the largest gaps in Hawaii's biosecurity system is the lack of authority for any agency to inspect non-agricultural commodities coming from domestic ports. This was identified as one of the highest priority actions in the 2017-2027 Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, which identifies 147 actions to be implemented across a 10-year timeline to improve biosecurity.

Currently Plant Quarantine inspectors do not have the authority to inspect and quarantine non-agricultural commodities, unless they have good cause to believe that there is a pest or other non-compliance in a non-agricultural container. This still leaves a large gap in the ability to assess risk and focus inspections on high-risk non-agricultural commodities which can pose the same risks as agricultural commodities. Take Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA) for example, which is not known to occur in Hawaii but is widely established in the Southeastern United States and quickly moving west. Annual losses in the United States from RIFA are upwards of \$6.7 billion. This pest reproduces quickly and can easily move. They are extremely aggressive killing off other ants and insects in the areas and inflict painful stings on humans. RIFA more than likely would not be intercepted on an agricultural commodity if found in Hawaii, but more likely vehicles, construction equipment, and packaging materials.

The passing of this measure and implementation would require a massive increase of force under the HDOA's Plant Quarantine Branch. The Biosecurity Plan recognized that expanding the authority to inspect non-agricultural commodities needed to include actions to increase capacity, operations, facilities, and the ability to assess risk to identify and prioritize the highest risk commodities and pathways.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT TO SENATE BILL 252 SD2  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPEICES**

Senate Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means  
Hawai'i State Capitol

March 12, 2025

9:00 am

Room 325

Aloha e Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the House Committee on  
Agriculture & Food System:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) provides testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB252\_SD2 which seeks to strengthen efforts by the Department of Agriculture to prevent the introduction of invasive plants, animals, and insects into Hawai'i. This measure is a critical step toward protecting our 'āina, our people, and our cultural heritage.

The introduction of invasive species threatens the very foundation of our islands' fragile ecosystems. Whether through soil erosion, destruction of native habitats, or competition with endemic species, the impacts of invasive species are profound and often irreversible. Native, endemic, and Polynesian introduced species not only contribute to the biodiversity of our environment but are integral to our cultural practices, traditions, and ways of life. Invasive species disrupt not only the physical environment and imperiled ecosystems but also threaten the cultural, spiritual, and economic fabric of our islands.

OHA believes that it is vital that the Department of Agriculture has the authority, resources and cooperative support necessary to inspect and regulate all forms of transportation to Hawai'i. By ensuring that all cargo, vehicles, and shipments into Hawai'i are thoroughly inspected for potential invasive species, we can protect our land, water, and native species from further harm. We support measures that enforce stringent biosecurity practices to ensure that our island ecosystems are not further burdened by the preventable introduction of invasive species.

In conclusion, by supporting this bill, we are affirming our commitment along with other agencies to commit to being responsible stewards of our 'āina, ensuring that future generations can continue to thrive in a Hawai'i that remains culturally and ecologically intact.

We urge the committee to **pass** this important bill SB252 SD2 in order to safeguard the unique ecosystems and cultural integrity of Hawai'i Nei. Mahalo for your time and consideration.



**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
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**TO:** Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair  
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

**FROM:** Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

**DATE:** March 10, 2025

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB252 SD2 RELATED TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The act clarifies that the importation of any item or material infested or infected with an insect or other animal, disease, or other pest is prohibited. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to inspect any item imported or moved into the State from another part of the continental United States or between the Hawaiian Islands. Prohibits the sale of merchandise that a seller knows is infested or infected with a pest. Authorizes the Department of Agriculture to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials. Clarifies penalties for violations.

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. Hawai'i is the endemic species, meaning found here and no where else, capital of the world. We have the rarest native and endemic plants, animals, and micro organisms. All of these species are foundational to our ability to live, our islands ability to produce water, and achieve food and nutrition security here in Hawai'i.
2. We support HDOA having the increased authority and added legal mechanisms to protect Hawai'i from the introduction and spread of invasive species, both from the continent and interisland. Increasing the scope of HDOA to refuse and treat items that are infested more broadly to any item, not just plants, animals, and agricultural commodities, increases our overall ability to be bio secure. With increased resources, capacity, and

infrastructure HDOA can address high risk non agricultural items, materials, and vector pathways, while not having to change inspection practices.

3. Implementing these measures are of the highest priority to protect our Native ecology, which is incredibly vulnerable and fragile, due to the countless invasive species present across our Pae ‘Āina. This bills purpose is in alignment with the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity plan aimed to improve our biosecurity. Our improved biosecurity is needed to protect billions of dollars in potential economic losses, as well as, ensuring the health and vitality of our ‘āina.

Mahalo for your consideration.



House of Representatives  
Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025  
9:00 AM Conference Room 325  
State Capitol

### Testimony in Support of SB 252 SD2

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in strong support of SB 252 SD2 Relating to Invasive Species**. This bill provides the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) with new authorities and tools that could be used within HDOA's existing capacity to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Hawaii.

However, the amendments made to SB 252 removed one of these important authorities. As introduced, SB 252 amended section 150A-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to prohibit the sale of plants and other material that is infested with a pest or that is itself a pest.

This language was intended to protect consumers who unknowingly purchase merchandise that is infested with a pest and bring it back to their homes and communities. However, HDOA provided testimony that this language was not necessary because that authority is already included in the recently adopted amendments to chapter 4-72, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR). The language in SB 252 was different and much more protective than the authority set out in the chapter 4-72 amendments. Section 4-72-5, HAR, included in the chapter 4-72 amendments, allows the Chief of the Plant Quarantine Branch to stop the sale of and/or quarantine pest-infested merchandise on **a case-by-case basis**. The original version of **SB 252 would prohibit the sale of pest-infested merchandise in general**. It lets nurseries and other retailers know that they are responsible for not selling pest-infested items. At this time, there is no statute that places that responsibility on the sellers.

SB 252 also contained language that clearly stated that the State of Hawaii is not responsible for the costs of quarantine or treatment of pest-infested merchandise within the State, mirroring the language used for items imported into the State that are found to be pest-infested in section 150A-5(8), HRS. Again, HDOA testified that this language is not necessary because similar language is contained in the chapter 4-72, HAR, amendments, and this language was removed from the bill in subsequent drafts. This language would have clarified that the

State of Hawaii is protected from challenges to the chapter 4-72 amendments. The rationale for HDOA's request to have the language removed was not clear.

To address the above concerns, we respectfully request this Committee amend SB 252 SD2 by reinserting section 5 from SB 252, as follows:

SECTION 5. Section 150A-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

**“§150A-8 [~~Transporting in~~] Movement within the State [~~▪~~]; quarantine, treatment, destruction.** (a) Flora [~~and~~], fauna, pest host material, and any other item or material specified by rules and regulations of the department shall not be moved from one island to another island within the State or from one locality to another on the same island except by a permit issued by the department.

(b) No person may sell, barter, or donate, or offer for sale, barter, or donation, or otherwise make available to the public, any material that is:

(1) Infested or infected with a pest;

(2) Itself a pest; or

(3) Prohibited from being sold under this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter.

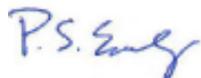
(c) The department may compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of any material sold, bartered, donated, or offered, or otherwise made available in violation of subsection (b). Any quarantine, treatment, or destruction shall be at the expense of the owner of the material and shall not be made the basis of a claim against the department or the inspector for damage or loss incurred.”

Mahalo for the opportunity to support SB252 SD2 and for your consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,



Christy Martin  
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley  
CGAPS Legal Fellow



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

March 12, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON SB 252, SD2**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice-Chair Kusch, 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 252, SD2**, which strengthens Hawai'i's biosecurity measures by clarifying that the importation of any item or material infested or infected with a pest is prohibited, authorizing the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to inspect any item imported into the State or moved between islands, prohibiting the sale of merchandise known to be infested with pests, and authorizing DOA to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials. The bill also clarifies the penalties for violations.

Hawai'i's agricultural industry and natural environment face constant threats from invasive species. Pests such as the coffee berry borer, coconut rhinoceros beetle, little fire ant, and two-lined spittlebug have caused severe economic damage to local farms, increased production costs, and disrupted ecosystems. Invasive species control measures are essential for protecting Hawai'i's food security, economy, and native biodiversity.

SB 252, SD2, provides the following improvements to Hawai'i's biosecurity efforts:

- Grants DOA the authority to inspect items imported into the State or moved between islands for pests, enabling the department to address potential threats before they become widespread.
- Prohibits the sale of merchandise that a seller knows to be infested or infected with pests, preventing the spread of harmful species through commercial activities.

- Allows DOA to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of infested or infected materials, ensuring that threats are swiftly and effectively managed.
- Clarifies penalties for violations to ensure that there are strong deterrents against the introduction and spread of pests.

Prevention and early detection are the most cost-effective ways to manage invasive species. Every dollar invested in biosecurity saves significantly more in long-term control and eradication costs. Protecting Hawai'i's agriculture, environment, and public health requires strong biosecurity measures that prevent the introduction and spread of invasive pests.

We urge the committee to pass SB 252, SD2, to support the state's ongoing efforts to safeguard Hawai'i's agricultural industry and natural environment from invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 9:00 A.M.

To The Honorable Kirstin Kahaloa, Chair  
The Honorable Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

## SUPPORT SB252 SD2 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB252 SD2** which clarifies that the importation of any item or material infested or infected with an insect or other animal, disease, or other pest is prohibited; authorizes the Department of Agriculture to inspect any item imported or moved into the State from another part of the continental United States or between the Hawaiian Islands; prohibits the sale of merchandise that a seller knows is infested or infected with a pest; and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce recognizes that one of the significant challenges facing our island state is the transfer of invasive species through inter-island plant sales. Moreover, the importation of plants that evade agricultural inspections further amplifies the risk of these invasive species establishing themselves in new areas, where existing mitigation measures may prove ineffective. These species can profoundly impact our environment, economy, and social well-being. Therefore, we support this bill that clarifies the roles and responsibilities of the Department of Agriculture in their important inspection process.

For these reasons, we **SUPPORT SB252 SD2**.

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.



**Hawai'i Forest Industry Association**

7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy  
Suite A-143A, #249  
Honolulu, HI 96825  
Phone: 808/933/9411  
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

**Date:** 03/10/25

**TO:** AGR Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members

**FROM:** Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

**SUBJECT:** Testimony in Support of SB252 SD2 Relating to Invasive Species

Dear Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of SB252 SD2 Relating to Invasive Species.

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) supports expanding the Department of Agriculture's authority to conduct investigations, inspections and clarify penalties to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in the state.

Considering that Hawaii is known as the "endangered species capital of the world" due to the damaging effects of invasive species on our unique biodiversity, implementing stronger inspection practices of incoming nursery stock, trees, grafts, cuttings, seeds, roots etc. is logical. As the bill states, federal law allows the United States Department of Agriculture to inspect persons, baggage, cargo and other articles departing from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland in order to protect against the spread of pests from Hawaii. Considering Hawaii's unique susceptibility to invasive species, we should be implementing equally vigilant inspections and practices for incoming persons, baggage, cargo and articles.

Monitoring for and protecting against invasive pests helps to protect our agricultural land, our forested land, our ranch and pasture lands, and the economies tied to all three. Protecting our islands and resources against further outbreaks of invasive species is a responsibility we have to the future generations who will rely on those resources. For these reasons HFIA hopes that you will support SB252 SD2.

Mahalo,

Guy Cellier, President  
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

*HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.*

**HFIA Board of Directors**

Officers: President Guy Cellier, Vice President Irene Sprecher, Secretary Taylor Coons, Treasurer Wade Lee  
Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Doug Gordon, Nicholas Koch, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:16:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!



March 10, 2025

To: Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch and the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Subject: **SB 252 SD2**, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**I am writing in support of SB252 SD2.** This bill offers multiple elements aimed at strengthening the State's protection against invasive species: it clarifies prohibition of importation of any infested or infected items/materials, giving authorization to the Department of Agriculture to inspect imported items from the continental United States or another Hawaiian Islands; it prohibits the sale of merchandise known to be infested or infected with a pest, and authorizes the Department of Agriculture to compel the quarantine, treatment, or destruction of certain materials.

It is critical now more than ever to eradicate the invasive species that are invading Hawai'i. However, that can't be achieved if we are also combating the introduction of new species or diseases as well. This bill will expand upon the DOA inspection regulations from articles to items and materials to cast a wider net in further preventing exposure of new species or diseases. Additionally, this bill clarifies the penalties of violation and for every day that violation occurs. I believe this is an important amendment to the HRS Section 105A-5.5 because it sets definitive repercussions for knowingly importing an infected/infested item or material that can cause detrimental effects to Hawai'i's natural environment and resources. Furthermore, the funds generated from those penalties will be deposited into the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund, thus providing an alternative funding opportunity and lessens the burden on local tax dollars to fund those needed activities/procedures.

I respectfully urge you to **pass SB252 SD2**.

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

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**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 2025, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students and young professionals working in the food 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.

BIISC  
23 E. Kawili St.  
Hilo, HI 96720  
(808) 933-3340  
[www.biisc.org](http://www.biisc.org)



March 11, 2025

Hearing: House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

RE: SB252 HD2

Aloha Chair Kahaloa, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of BIISC I would like to express our support for SB252, which would expand the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's regulatory authority to inspect any item imported into Hawaii from the continental United States or moved between the Hawaiian Islands.

The lack of authority by any agency to inspect non-agricultural imports coming from domestic ports is a huge gap in our biosecurity. This was identified as one of the highest priority actions in the 2017-2027 Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, and it is heartening to see this legislature set out to rectify that problem.



Just recently, a concerned business in Kona contacted us about a disturbing encounter: a shipment of household items from Washington state was opened and found to be infested with a population of a new, large spider species not known to be in Hawaii (likely giant house spider). They fumigated and destroyed the spiders before unloading, but this incident highlights the problem. While there is no guarantee that this container would have been inspected at the port under this proposed authority, currently there is no opportunity at all for any agency to be able to potentially catch a new potential invasive species if the commodity being transported is non-agricultural.

SB252 would increase Hawaii's ability to intercept unwanted new species before they are released onto our landscape. Again, we applaud these efforts and thank you all for your continued focus on invasive species and biosecurity.

Mahalo for your consideration.



Franny Kinslow Brewer  
Program Manager  
Big Island Invasive Species Committee

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/8/2025 10:54:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcia Kemble	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Committee members,

I strongly support SB252. Invasive species like the little fire ant and coconut rhinoceros beetle are already causing serious harm to Hawai‘i’s environment, agriculture, and communities, and we must make major transformative shifts in our biosecurity strategy to mitigate the impacts of these and other invasive pests on our islands and future generations.

Two of my siblings have already had infestations of little fire ants on their property – one in Kailua and one in Makiki Heights, and they have also been found on other properties not far at all from my house, so I am very alarmed about this.

This bill will make clear that the import and intrastate sale or gift of invasive species-infested items is prohibited - without requiring the Department of Agriculture to pass rules or issue orders, processes that could take months, years, or decades. It will also remove the Department’s ability to use the lack of inspection or quarantine authorities as an excuse for inaction, as has been the case with the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and too many other known pests.

SB252 is essential to safeguarding our environment, food security, and way of life. Therefore, I urge you to PASS SB252.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Kemble

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 12:49:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the intention of SB252 SD2 to tighten up agricultural inspections on imported organic products in order to alleviate the biosecurity crisis that we are experiencing. I do believe, though, that this bill needs a little re-writing to clarify its language, correct the grammar, and make its provisions easier to understand.

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 1:57:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chuck Chimera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Kirstin Kahaloe, Vice Chair Matthias Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB252 SD2, which seeks to strengthen Hawai'i's biosecurity measures by clarifying the prohibition of importing or moving items infested with pests, authorizing the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to conduct inspections, and enhancing penalties for violations.

Hawai'i's unique ecosystems, agricultural industry, and cultural heritage are under constant threat from invasive species. Pests such as the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coffee berry borer have already caused significant harm to our environment, economy, and way of life. These invasive species disrupt native habitats, increase agricultural production costs, and threaten food security. SB252 SD2 is a critical step toward preventing further damage by empowering the DOA to take proactive measures to inspect and regulate the movement of potentially infested materials.

The bill's provisions, including the authority to quarantine, treat, or destroy infested materials, are essential for early detection and rapid response to invasive species. By clarifying penalties for violations, SB252 SD2 also ensures that there are strong deterrents against the introduction and spread of harmful pests. Prevention is far more cost-effective than long-term control or eradication efforts, and this bill provides the necessary tools to protect our islands from future invasions.

I urge the committee to pass SB252 SD2 to safeguard Hawai'i's environment, agriculture, and cultural resources. By supporting this measure, we affirm our commitment to being responsible stewards of our 'āina for future generations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Sincerely,

Chuck Chimera

Honokaa



**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:52:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Please pass this important bill. The red carpet that has been rolled out to invasive pests and diseases for decades needs to be stopped and the welcome committee disbanded!**

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 3:58:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**The clarification proposed in this bill is  
obviously and desperately needed!**

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/10/2025 11:57:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB252 SD2 that prohibits the import or sale/donation of pest-infested items, and clarifies the Agriculture Department's authority and responsibility to enforce these prohibitions through administrative inspections and quarantine orders, among other provisions. This bill is essential as it will remove the Agriculture Department's ability to use the lack of inspection or quarantine authorities as an excuse for inaction, as has been the case with the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and too many other known pests. Enough is enough. We need to protect our precious islands from more harm from invasive species, SB252 SD2 will help to do that.

Please pass SB252 SD2. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony

**SB-252-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/11/2025 6:23:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/12/2025 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure without elaboration, for none is needed.