

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, March 1, 2019
10:10 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 523, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 523, Senate Draft 1 would appropriate funds to several biosecurity projects at the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) and the Department of Agriculture (DOA) in order to implement portions of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (HIBP). **The Department supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department is one of several agencies that partnered with DOA on the development of the HIBP, which outlines the State's strategy for improving biosecurity (the actions and policies taken to mitigate the risk from invasive species introduction, establishment, and spread) from 2017-2027. While many of the HIBP recommendations are no-cost actions that are being taken internally to improve efficiency and increase collaboration, the HIBP does identify key capacity and infrastructure gaps that need to be addressed in order for Hawaii to be effectively protected from the impacts of invasive species. This includes several activities supported by this measure:

- The establishment of an invasive species response fund for biosecurity emergencies: This resource is critical to implementing rapid responses to new incursions of invasive species. Establishing such a fund is one of the key goals of the HIBP, described in border policy action item BorPol1.3. Appropriating money into this fund is described in border funding action item BorTifs1.4. These actions would be achieved by SECTION 2 and SECTION 3 of this measure.
- Increased capacity for coordinated, interagency research and control projects. The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) receives funding from the legislature on annual basis to support interagency research and projects that fill gaps between agency mandates. These projects include critical support entities including the University of Hawaii Invasive

Species Committees and Hawaii Ant Lab. The HISC receives roughly \$10,000,000 in requests for interagency project support each year. Currently the HISC receives an appropriation of \$4,750,000 in LNR 402 to support these requests. The need to increase this capacity is described in HIBP postborder funding action PosTifs1.1. SECTION 4 of this measure would provide an additional \$1,000,000 for this purpose and would address this HIBP action.

- Adding positions at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) for invasive species control in protected areas: Invasive species are a primary threat in DOFAW's management of natural resources in Forest Reserves, Natural Area Reserves, and Wildlife Sanctuaries. HIBP action PosTifs1.10 sets a goal of adding 45 biosecurity positions statewide by 2027 to address this gap. While these positions are referred to as "biosecurity positions" and will work on invasive species mitigation, the exact position class varies by DOFAW Branch depending on the needs of that particular island. The positions described in SECTION 5 are the same as the position classes in the administration request. The amount of general funds described in SECTION 6 also matches the administration request for equipment and supplies needed to support these positions. This measure would effectively address this critical action identified by the HIBP for the fiscal biennium 2019-2021.
- Increase resources for rapid ohia death and other forest pathogen responses. Rapid ohia death threatens to compromise the ecosystem function of our native forests. The HIBP calls for increasing forest health capacity, including the hiring of response capacity for rapid ohia death, under postborder action PosTifs1.8. SECTION 7 of this measure would provide an additional \$500,000 in support for rapid ohia death response and would effectively address this HIBP action for fiscal year 2020.
- Build a coqui frog containment barrier around Maliko Gulch, Maui. The HIBP broadly discusses the need for invasive species containment features (e.g., fences or other barriers), particularly at ports of entry, in border action BorTifs2.2. While Maliko Gulch on Maui is not a port of entry, it is a continued source of coqui frog infestations as frogs leave the gulch and enter into neighboring properties, from which they can be further spread around Maui on landscaping or other materials. The installment of a containment barrier would remove this pathway of spread out of the gulch, allowing the Maui DOFAW Branch and partners at the Maui Invasive Species Committee to focus on reducing the number of frogs within the gulch. This is a critical need if the goal for coqui frogs on Maui is island-wide eradication. Without this barrier, coqui frogs will likely become permanently established on Maui. SECTION 8 of this measure would address this critical need.
- Provide specialized expertise in risk analyses for organisms arriving in imported cargo. The HIBP prioritizes the need for enhanced capacity at the DOA Plant Quarantine Branch for inspection of incoming goods, risk assessments based on interceptions, and increased efficiency in utilizing limited inspection capacity on the highest risk commodities. The DOA has made substantial progress in developing the technology for electronic manifesting and now needs entomologists, plant pathologies, botanists, and data specialists to utilize the electronic manifest system to accurately assess the risk of new species introductions and direct inspection resources appropriately. SECTION 9 of this measure would begin to develop this capacity by providing 4 positions dedicated to risk assessment, out of a total of 7 positions highlighted as a goal in HIBP preborder action item PreTifs2.2. [The Department supports the amendments in Senate Draft 1 increasing the amount of funding appropriated for these positions.](#)

- Increased use of detector dogs for biosecurity. HIBP action item BorPro1.1 describes the need to increase the use of detector dogs for the inspection of high-risk cargo. The DOA has made excellent progress in restoring its detector dog program. SECTION 10 of this measure would provide funds for a canine detection kennel and training facility needed to support this program.
- New biological control research facilities. The legislature provided \$180,000 in planning funds to the DOA in 2018 to scope a project for the construction of new biological control research facilities. The current research facilities are antiquated and cannot be used for work with pathogens and other small agents. The US Forest Service is concurrently exploring opportunities to update its research facilities in a collaborative partnership with DOA. The production of a report as described in SECTION 11 would advance a vision of a joint planning process for state and federal biological control research facilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Acting Chairperson
Board of Agriculture

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

MARCH 1, 2019
10:10 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 523 SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 523 SD1, relating to biosecurity. The bill provides for (1) establishment and funding for an invasive species rapid response special fund, to be used by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) for mitigating or eradicating newly detected invasive species threats in the State; (2) funding for the DLNR to support additional research, prevention, control, and outreach projects as directed by the Hawaii invasive species council, including but not limited to the invasive species committees in each county and the Hawaii ant lab; (3) funding for ten full-time equivalent positions in DLNR in support of the interagency biosecurity plan; (4) funding to DLNR to remove invasive species in forests; (5) funding to DLNR to increase capacity for rapid ohia death response; (6) funding to DLNR to plan, design, and construct a coqui frog barrier for Maliko Gulch on the island of Maui; (7) funding to the Department of Agriculture (DOA) for four full-time equivalent positions in support of the interagency biosecurity plan; (8) funding for DOA to develop plans for a canine detection kennel and training facility to be managed by the DOA; and (9) direction for DOA to submit a report of findings and recommendations to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the 2020 session on the feasibility and planning of construction of a biological control research and containment



facility, including any federal funds provided to explore a joint research center. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The Department is grateful for the additional funding and positions to assist in carrying out its mission related to biosecurity. However, it is noted that the amount proposed for the four new DOA positions would need to be doubled to cover the costs of salaries and benefits for the second year. Page 6, Lines 19-20 should read as “sum of \$207,816 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021...” It would also be desirable to make these positions permanent, rather than just for the next two fiscal years.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR

ROBERT YU
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY

TESTIMONY BY RODERICK K. BECKER
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 523, S.D. 1

**March 1, 2019
10:10 a.m.
Room 211**

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

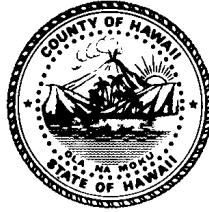
Senate Bill (S.B.) No. 523, S.D. 1: establishes the Invasive Species Rapid Response Special Fund (ISRRSF); appropriates \$300,000 in general funds in FY 20 and FY 21 for deposit into the special fund; and appropriates general funds and authorizes positions for the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and Department of Agriculture to mitigate the impacts of invasive species and implement the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The ISRRSF would generate revenues through legislative appropriations and interest earnings, and be administered by the Invasive Species Council within the DLNR. The bill does not contain an appropriation for the special fund.

As a matter of general policy, the department does not support the creation of any special fund which does not meet the requirements of Section 37-52.3, HRS. Special funds should: 1) serve a need as demonstrated by the purpose, scope of work and an explanation why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process; 2) reflect a clear nexus between the benefits sought

and charges made upon the users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue; 3) provide an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity; and 4) demonstrate the capacity to be financially self-sustaining. In regards to S.B. No. 523, S.D. 1, it is difficult to determine whether the proposed special fund would be self-sustaining.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

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February 28, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: SB 523, SD1 Relating to Biosecurity

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 523, SD1.

A year ago, the Council of Mayors identified invasive species as a top-priority issue that deserves your attention. Even our best efforts are often inadequate to protect our islands from harmful pests, and limited resources make it imperative that we work together in pursuing solutions to what often seem intractable problems.

Creating a well-funded, rapid response mechanism to deal with invasives seems like an excellent way to attack infestations as they are identified. Prompt action will almost always have the best chance for success.

I also would want to put in a plug for Section 7 of the bill, which earmarks increased funding for rapid ohia death response. The initial shock of the discovery of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) has passed, and therefore the media has largely moved on. However, the devastation of ROD and the loss of ohia in Hawai'i should not be ignored.

I hope you will approve SB 523, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR



O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 1, 2019

TIME: 10:10 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 211, State Capitol

RE: SB 523, SD 1, RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

My name is Melodie Aduja and I serve as Chair of the O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i ("DPH"). Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB 523, SD 1. The O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities ("OCCLP") hereby submits its testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 523, SD 1, Relating to Biosecurity.**

SB 523, SD 1, creates the Invasive species rapid response special fund. It provides that within the state treasury the invasive species rapid response special fund shall be established, into which shall be deposited appropriations by the legislature for the purposes of mitigating or eradicating newly detected invasive species threats in the State. If the council determines that one or more newly detected invasive species pose a substantial threat to the agriculture, commerce, economy, environment, or public health of the State or otherwise warrant immediate action, the council shall submit a request to the governor to declare that there exists an invasive species emergency.

SB 523, SD 1, also provides ten full-time equivalent (10.0 FTE) positions to the department of land and natural resources per the Hawaii interagency biosecurity plan and adds four full-time equivalent (4.0 FTE) positions to the department of agriculture and requires the department submit a report to the legislature. SB 523, SD 1, appropriates funds for positions and for execution of the Hawaii interagency biosecurity plan. (SD1)

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform states that agriculture in our state must be preserved and its future strengthened. Sufficient prime agricultural lands must be maintained for the health, economic well-being and sustenance of the people. We believe in an integrated approach to agricultural innovation and sustainability. We encourage the responsible development of ocean resources and aquaculture to achieve sustainability in our State, of our marine resources and ensure and improve the health of our reef and marine life.

This approach includes, but is not limited to, the adoption of the Native Hawaiian concept of ahupua'a, an integrated approach to land management. This could also include development of economic, land and ocean use policies that foster sustainable crops both for local consumption and for export, policies to foster agriculture-related infrastructure at shipping points, and **increased inspection to protect against invasive species** and to encourage reduced holding times. We need to ensure food safety, strive towards food security and strive to set the highest standards for food quality and nutrition. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 9, In. 5-16.*

We support adequate resources to address the various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry. *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 9, In. 43-44.*

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i makes protecting the environment and our cultural assets a high priority by advancing measures that re-establish healthy Climate and Environment for humans and fellow species (including ban on use of chemicals that harm our marine waters such as oxybenzone; address climate change crisis, ban use of polystyrene for food uses, protect indigenous and organic food farms from contamination; require truth in labeling on all agricultural products and 50% Hawai'i grown to be labeled as Hawai'i grown; advance "Buy Local" and "Blue Zone Project" and other community wellness programs; restrict marine aquarium harvesting; give priority to alternative energy and nature based solutions such as promoting use of compost and recycling policies and avoidance of incineration; restrict the use of insecticides and herbicides deleterious to the web of life and **implement the State biosecurity plan to address invasive species**; protect and preserve our fragile ecosystems and cultural assets by requiring environmental and cultural assessments in advance of all development; advance set asides for Native Hawaiian Cultural Reserves and Parks, and reclaim ancient trails across the island). *Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform (2018), p. 2, In. 23-34.*

For the foregoing reasons, to wit, to protect the people of Hawai'i and their property against various invasive species on this island beginning at point of entry, OCCLP supports SB 523, SD 1, and urges its passage out of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mahalo nui loa
Me ka `oia`i`o

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja

Chair, O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of
Hawai`i

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March 1, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 523, SD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 211
10:10 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports the intent of SB 523, SD1, which creates the invasive species rapid response special fund.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties 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.

In the 2002 LRB study on invasive species, it was reported that the estimated cost of financing all invasive species programs was \$50 million. The report estimated that the lost revenue to agriculture was \$300 million per year. It also states that the invasion of unwanted pests has the potential to economically devastate the State by keeping tourists away from the island and that invasive species can affect tourism indirectly by altering or displacing Hawaii's environmental assets.

HFB appreciates the intent of this measure and the many other bills that seek to address invasive species. However, we respectfully request that the Legislature fund the DOA's Biosecurity Program which is a comprehensive strategy that addresses the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting SB523 SD1 Relating to Biosecurity
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Monday, March 1, 2019, 10:10AM, Room 211

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports SB523 SD1 to create a mechanism and fund for rapid response to address newly detected invasive species threats, provide additional funding for projects directed by the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council, and to provide much needed additional staffing at the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Department of Agriculture.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state.

We appreciate that this bill recognizes the need for a multi-faceted approach to invasive species. And, we hope that the funding in this this measure will continue to be additive, thereby allowing the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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SB-523-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2019 5:57:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB-523-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 10:02:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hattie Gerrish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee, I am a young farmer and life-long resident of the Big Island, and I am greatly concerned by the threat of invasive species to Hawai'i's economic potential and ecological well-being. I am also a member of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, and I am aware that biosecurity is a high priority of the Environmental Caucus. I deeply appreciate the support that some members of this committee have shown by co-sponsoring this bill. Therefore, I urge you to support this bill without amendments.

As I am sure the committee is aware, invasive species are a major threat facing farmers here. It seems like it gets harder every year to grow food as invasives spread and new ones pour in. There are so many: blights, scales, or bugs that target specific crops, to rat lung worm that has taken down the salad greens industry on my island, or old problems like the feral pig over population that destroys crops and crop land. Or the verroa mite that knocked back our promising Hawaiian honey and queen bee industry. Or the Madagascar fireweed that has come to plague our best grazing land in the last few years, which contains an accumulative liver toxin that finds its way into the meat of grazing animals, and even honey made from its nectar. My farm has been negatively impacted by the little fire ant. And of course invasive species displace or kill native species, degrading our unique ecosystems.

I think major funding and staffing are needed to study and control invasive species, and better yet, stop any new ones from getting in. Prevention is the best cure. Farmers, businesses, and home owners need relief from the unrelenting assault on our property value, means of making a living, and health and safety. I believe that investing in biosecurity is well worth the price tag and these proposals will pay for themselves many times over, benefiting our economy and all who live and work in these islands.

I believe that Hawai'i has great potential to market specialty products that take advantage of our unique resources, such as our renowned Kona coffee, quality tea or queen bees, and I also feel strongly that we must produce more food locally for our own use. To reach our potential, we must contain the damage caused by invasive species.

Mahalo for considering SB523 SD1.

Aloha,

Hattie Le`a Wheeler Gerrish

SB 523 testimony

Mahalo nui for scheduling this hearing for a most important budget bill. Please give strong support to pass this measure.

While this bill is not being offered by the Governor, he has professed support of its aims and created the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, a landmark effort, which has originated this budget to represent its collective wisdom.

Critically, the bill provides for new positions in the Division of Forestry in DLNR and in the Department of Agriculture divisions of pest management. This investment is efficient, and a true bargain at \$408,000. These positions leverage more worker activities through volunteerism and part-time employment, cultivating a nationally-recognized effective program of control, education, and outreach.

In addition, there are authorizations for rapid response to new threats and measured responses to current ones of great consequence to the State. The bill supports essential research, prevention, control, and outreach across a wide spectrum of species.

These are expenditures that fulfill the mission of protecting not only traditional and customary care but also of resources that attract our economic base of tourism. With greater global integration of economies, these challenges are becoming commonplace, and our response must be equally bold to stay ahead of the curve. Recently we have seen some potentially great scourges add to our inventory of threatening species, from fire ants and coqui frogs to rapid ohī'a death. These are game-changers in our watersheds.

Please join me, the Environmental Caucus of your Democratic Party, and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council in giving strong support to SB523.

Charley Ice
Waimalu, 'Ewa, O'ahu

LATE

SB-523-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 12:10:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-523-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2019 7:02:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Testifying for Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

SB-523-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2019 8:20:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2019 10:10:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Testifying for Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments: