

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2996, S.D. 1

March 23, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ANTS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2996, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ant species.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
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 House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 23, 2022
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2996, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO ANTS

Senate Bill 2996, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the LNR 402 Program of the Department of Land and Natural Resources for research, extension, and control of the little fire ants and other harmful ants. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The little fire ant costs upwards of \$200 million per year to manage on Hawai'i Island alone and new invasive ant threats like red imported fire ants, which are not currently present in Hawai'i, have similar costs associated with their management elsewhere. The Hawai'i Ant Lab has a statewide mission to prevent the entry of invasive ants into Hawai'i and to manage those that are already established. Invasive ants harm our native wildlife, impede local food production, and harm pets with their aggressive stinging. The Hawai'i Ant Lab Program is a point-of-contact for public, state, and federal conservation agencies, and a large component of the program is devoted to the management and control of little fire ants throughout the State.

Currently, the Hawai'i Ant Lab has no source of stable funding for their operations and last year experienced significant budget cuts that have resulted in staff working at decreased capacity to stretch funding over a longer period. This is happening at a critical time with increased detections of little fire ant infestations occurring across the State. The potential for widespread establishment of little fire ants is increased without continued and dedicated rapid response and treatment. The appropriation in this measure would directly support the Hawai'i Ant Lab through the Department's LNR 402 Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
March 23, 2022
9:00 a.m. via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2996 SD1

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 2996 SD1, *Relating to Ants***. The aim of this measure is to provide funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for work on little fire ants (LFA) and other harmful ants.

LFA were first detected on Hawai‘i island in 1999, but at that time, there were no registered ant baits for organic crops and no registered formulations and methods for applying baits to trees and foliage, there were only granular baits formulated for ground-nesting fire ant species. The Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) was created as a partnership between the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa-Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, with funding from a variety of sources, to fill technical and capacity gaps in responding to Little Fire Ants and other damaging ant species.

LFA’s unusual ability to nest in any protected space—on the ground, in leaf litter, or up in plants and all the way to the treetops—required specialists to do the research and development for effective control chemicals and “baits”, application tools that could stick the bait up in trees where the ants forage, and to register these new pesticides and tools for use. It is thanks to HAL that we can detect, control, and even eradicate these ants if found early enough, and HAL is working on additional tools for the toolbox.

The funding shortfall that is hitting HAL is a significant concern and CGAPS and partners are working with HAL to identify and apply for federal funds to support part of their work. However, these funds, if successful, would not become available until the summer of 2023 at earliest. We urge you to pass SB 2996 SD1 to provide gap-filling funds for work on LFA and other pest ants through DLNR. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

Century Square – 1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1003*Honolulu, HI 96813-3304

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March 23, 2022

Testimony To: House Committee on Agriculture
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: S.B. 2996, SD 1 – RELATING TO ANTS

Chair Hashem and Members of the Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association and we support this bill.

Just about everyone is aware of the difficulties encountered in dealing with the little fire ant and the fact that they are very, very hard to control. We also think that most people are aware of the problems that the little fire ant causes.

Appropriate research, in order to study the biology, the feeding habits and the reproduction cycle of the little fire ant are extremely important to the actual control of the little fire ant. Structural pest control operators benefit from the research that is performed since this tends to be a local problem as opposed to one on the mainland where other research might occur.

Based on the above, we highly recommend the passage of this bill.

Thank you.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:57:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Beth Jiko Nakade	Daifukuji Soto Mission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Daifukuji Soto Mission has benefitted greatly from the excellent services of the Hawaii Ant Lab which have provided us with education and ongoing support in our efforts to control the Little Fire Ants on our property. Our temple is a community gathering place where many different kinds of programs are offered. It is important that our grounds and buildings be free of the biting fire ants which harm people as well as animals. Both Heather Forester and Kiyoshi Adachi have taught us (and our neighbors in Honalo) how to combat the ants and control their populations. We totally support Senate Bill 2996.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:27:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Lee	Kualoa Ranch	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Ant Lab is an extremely valuable asset to Hawaii. Their extension work and ability to respond to calls and tips for LFA is invaluable. Their early detection work goes a very long way in preventing this terrible threat to Oahu's resources, communities, industries and economies. Their research and development is critical in providing guidance in how best to control this threat.

Mahalo for your support,

Julia Lee

March 23, 2022

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair

House Committee on Agriculture

Via Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2996, SD1, Relating to Ants

HEARING: Wednesday, March 23 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perusso, and Members of the Committee,

I am Ken Hiraki, Director of Government Affairs Committee, testifying on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its over 11,000 members. HAR **supports** Senate Bill 2996, SD1, which appropriates an unspecified sum to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (LNR402) for research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ants.

Little fire ants are listed among the world's 100 worst invasive species. Additionally, little fire ants can cause severe economic damage and negatively affect the quality of life of our residents, homeowners and our community.¹

As such, Hawai'i REALTORS® supports efforts to control invasive species and believe this research is a small price to pay for the long-term negative impacts that little fire ants would have on our State if left unchecked.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Donna J. Lee, et al, Taking the Sting Out of Fire Ants
https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/files/2019/02/2015_EcologicalEconomics_LFA_Impacts_Hawaii.pdf



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March 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2996, SD1
RELATING TO ANTS**

Room 325 & Videoconference
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, 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 2996, SD1, which appropriates an unspecified amount to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (LNR402) for research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ants.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree the Hawai'i Ant Lab's operational funding is critical to ensure that continued measures to stop the spread of little fire ants are not reduced or disrupted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:29:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Springer	MacFarms of Hawaii Llc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The Hawaii Ant Lab was indispensable in mitigating the spread of little fire ants to our commercial operation. MacFarms of Hawaii is a 4,00 acres farm just north of Manuka State park and we are one of three macadamia nut processors on Hawaii Island. Due to the high volume of outside product coming into our facilities there is always a high chance of introducing unwanted pests.

A couple years ago, The Hawaii Ant Lab reached out to us to provide education on the little fire ant. They provided in person training on monitoring and identifying of this tiny pest. Because of their help we were able to identify a colony of Little Fire ants that had set up near our husking facility where outside farmers and our own haulers unload nuts for processing. This was a great success in that if the colony had continued unnoticed it would have easily spread not only into the orchard but into our processing facilities. So far, the colony has been eradicated and no new ones have been found.

Without the Hawaii Ant Lab, the Little Fire ant would have most certainly been a great nuisance at MacFarms. Our, over 100, workers would have had to deal with the unpleasant outcome of a Little Fire ant invasion. We still have ants at MacFarms but not any fire ants and we are grateful to the Hawaii Ant Lab for showing us how to keep it that way. They provide a great service for not only farmers but the general public. MacFarms sincerely hopes they will continue to provide their help and guidance long into the future.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 6:23:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Kellerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Future funding for LFA control is imperative to keep this noxious pest under control. By financially supporting organizations like Hawaii Ant Lab, a platform would be established for the following three pillars:

- **Extension and treatment support** to residents and agricultural industries affected by invasive ants.
- **Early detection programs and eradication plans** on neighbor islands to prevent the intra and inter-island spread of Little Fire Ants (LFA) in Hawaii.
- **Research and development** of effective and innovative methods for the control of LFA. This ongoing process makes HAL the leading agency on LFA management strategies in the world.

I appreciate the consideration.

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 1:57:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Frohlich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for accepting this testimony in SUPPORT of SB2996. I am testifying as a private citizen who works with Little Fire Ants on O'ahu. The loss of funding by the Hawai'i Ant Lab comes at a critical time when an increasing number of isolated populations of Little Fire Ants are being identified. O'ahu currently has over 23 active sites that are, or have been, infested with little fire ant.

Little fire ants (LFA) pose a grave risk to our native species, human health and the health of our pets and livestock, and threaten our way of life in Hawai'i. Research and control of LFA and other harmful ant species is crucial. Thank you for your support of this important bill.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 12:35:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Una Greenaway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill supporting the Hawaii Ant lab. They have done amazing work, and continue to do so. The LFA is spreading over the state, and will soon be all over Oahu. Help us slow this terrible pest down.

Mahalo,

Una Greenaway

Kuaiwi Farm

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:08:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Israel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of SB2996. I totally support funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to assist with research, extension and control of the LFAs. I've lived in Captain Cook for 91/2 years, and in the beginning we were told the LFA were only on the Eastern side of the Big Island. However, about 5 years ago, we discovered them in our yard! Luckily I got help from the extension office on how to treat them in order to control them. But there have been numerous outbreaks at our Daifukuji Soto Mission both outside and inside. We were instructed on how to control the LFA by the extension office. The ants have been in remission except for one side of the property. But if we had not had this assistance, I hate to think how they would have spread.

This island needs so much more help. LFAs are dangerous to ones health, and agriculture workers really need assurance that they won't be attacked when working or harvesting. There really needs to be so much more outreach because it seems not that you find LFAs all over the island.

Please pass this bill. The county needs the help.

,

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 2:14:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeff zimpfer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Members of the Committee on Agriculture,

I am a resident of North Kona and I fully support Senate Bill 2996. I have seen firsthand the great work the ant lab does. Their extension program, their Early detection programs and eradication plans and their Research and development program are all first rate. They have a very passionate and knowledgeable staff. It is vital that these programs continue. Left uncontrolled little fire ants impact human health and safety, agriculture, native ecosystems and our ability to enjoy our backyards.

Jeff Zimpfer

73-4285 Iiili Street

Kailua-Kona HI 96740

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 4:43:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather Forester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to hear SB2996 Relating to Ants. I am writing in SUPPORT of SB2996. Though ants are small in size, they pose large problems for our State. I have personally seen the devastating impacts that invasive ants cause the people, pets, and industries of Hawaii. Invasive ants, such as Little Fire Ants (LFA), are changing our way of life, and if left unchecked will forever change Hawaii as we know it.

People become desperate when trying to find solutions to manage invasive ants. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation that is spread in the public realm, which can lead to pesticide misuse. People have also been known to go to the extremes of using fire to defend against ants; one such case led to a structure fire.

The Hawaii Ant Lab educates the public on best management practices that are safe and legal. The Hawaii Ant Lab needs your support to continue serving the State by helping to prevent the spread of LFA, providing education on the management of LFA and other invasive ants, and early detection of invasive ants that are not established in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Heather Forester

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 5:33:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB 2996.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:30:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for accepting this testimony in favor of passing SB2996. I am testifying as a private citizen who works with Little Fire Ants on Hawaii Island. The loss of funding by the Hawaii Ant Lab comes at a critical time when an increasing number of isolated populations of Little Fire Ants are being identified across the islands. The requested funds will allow continued critical outreach, research, and rapid response to extinguish these outbreaks. I urge the committee to pass SB2996 as these efforts are imperative to prevent Little Fire Ants from spreading throughout our state and wreaking havoc in our agriculture fields, forests, and homes.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:51:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evan Yazawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Controlling ants is vital to conservation and agriculture on the island. Little fire ants in particular pose an economic and safety hazard because they spread very quickly, thrive where humans live, and have a sting that can leave pets permanently disabled. Hawaii needs a team dedicated to ant control.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 7:55:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2996. Currently the Hawai'i Ant Lab is on involuntary 50% furlough, greatly reducing their capacity to control invasive ants, research best practices for preventing incipient ant populations from getting established, and engage in outreach to educate the population about the risks posed by invasive ants. As an individual whose home is near a population of little fire ants, I am concerned about the impacts of furlough on ant control in the state. I strongly support the Hawai'i Ant Lab's work. Mahalo for considering my testimony.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:07:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB2996 to fund the Hawaii Ant Lab in its effort to diminish the spread of the Little Fire Ant (LFA). The LFA is a relentless insect that could render parts of rural Hawaii uninhabitable. Even wild pigs avoid areas that are infested with LFA!

Hawaii Ant Lab staff provided a training session for LFA control in Kainaliu on Big Island this month. They were detailed and informative and practical. We administered a spray containing a hormone to decrease fertility of LFA.

This is in a small town on Big island on a commercial road, not in a rural district. The spread of LFA is far more dangerous than Coqui frogs.

Please recognize the important work that the Ant Lab performs and continue to fund their operations. More invasive insects may be coming and we need scientific efforts to protect Hawaii from the worst culprits.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2022 9:16:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Donlon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Invasive little fire ants have changed the landscape and production of my macadamia nut orchard. Since they invaded it for years ago, we have not been able to eradicate them. This caused problems of four are pickers as they collect the nuts in the husk off the ground. The Hawaii Ant Lab began assisting us approximately one year ago. Their advice and treatment with Tango has made a huge difference. We value their expertise and assistance and request continued support and research before our islands are over run by LFAs.