

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
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 CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2996, S.D. 1

April 1, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 308 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.

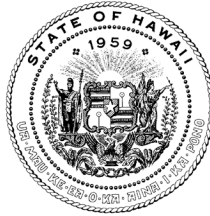
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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
FINANCE

Friday, April 1, 2022
1:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 308, 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 part time to stretch funding over a longer period. This is happening as detections of little fire ant infestations are 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.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 8:05:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Arnott	DLNR	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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

Telephone (808) 533-6404 • Fax (808) 533-2739

April 1, 2022

Testimony To: House Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

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

Chair Luke 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.



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

April 1, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 2996, SD1
RELATING TO ANTS

Room 308 & Videoconference
1:30 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice-Chair Yamashita, 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.



COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
April 1, 2022
1:30 p.m., Room 308 and via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 2996 SD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, 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 that could be applied in organic crop areas, no registered formulations for applying baits to foliage and trees, and no methods for applying those baits to stick in trees—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

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair

House Committee on Finance

Via Videoconference

RE: Senate Bill 2996, SD1, Relating to Ants

HEARING: Friday, April 1, 2022, at 1:30 p.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

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 9:28:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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: 3/28/2022 6:17:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James B Friday	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair Luke, vice-chair Yamashita, and members of the House Committee on Finance,

I am writing to support SB2996 SD1 and funding for the Hawaii Ant Lab. The little fire ant is one of the worst invasive species in our islands. Infestations of LFA can put farms out of business, blind pets, and make life in rural areas miserable. The Hawaii Ant Lab has done an outstanding job in equipping communities with the tools and knowledge of how to manage this pest. Please ensure that they continue to be funded.

Mahalo,

J. B. Friday

Hilo

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 6:33:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shareen Murayama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"A mighty flame followeth a tiny spark." ~ Dante Aligheiri

Senate Bill 2996 proposes to appropriate \$600,000 to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (LNR402) for research, extension, and control of the little fire ants and other harmful ants. I'm a public high school teacher, who curates opportunities for my students to elevate their leadership and civic responsibility within our communities. I support this bill and ask that funding actually be increased to the fullest extent possible.

If fire ants were cancer, we'd be at the treatment stage, wouldn't we? They have been detected on each island. We've missed the opportunity for prevention, haven't we? Shouldn't we be in the treatment phase? How can \$600,000 mitigate the irreversible ecological devatations for Hawaii's sustainability and tourism? How can Hawaii even dream of becoming more sustainable if something small and mighty as a fire ant can destroy our local produce systems, tourist industry, native and indigenous wildlife, and even impacting children in public schools suffering from "raining ants"?

We are grateful to Oahu Invasive Species Committee Outreach speaker, Jamie Miller, and the outreach work they continue to provide for our next generation of stewards for Hawaii's environment.

In addition, 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 (HAL) 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 and can impede local food production and harm pets with their aggressive stinging. The program is a point-of-contact for the 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, HAL 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 is a possibility without continued and dedicated rapid response/treatment. The appropriation in this measure would directly support HAL through the Department's LNR 402. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:02:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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: 3/29/2022 9:32:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a farmer in Ka'u I have and continue to rely on the Hawai'i Ant lab for support in my farm operations.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:56:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

LFA and other introduced pests pose serious hazards to our agricultural sector and lifestyle.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:18:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Heithaus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These fire ants are quite a problem, as I'm sure you know!

Hawaii Ant Lab and other research to safely and effectively support their control is really helpful to our community.

For example, people are buying tons of chemicals from the store and spraying them around their house and yard, with no idea that those aren't effective and in the process polluting the environment and their homes.

Hawaii Ant Lab educates people how to control the ants safely and effectively, its something I've been trying at my own house and I'm so glad I found their help!

These ants also feed parasitic insects that harm my garden, I'm sure they can't be helping the agriculture industry either!

Thank you for supporting SB2996 SD1!

SB-2996-SD-1


Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:53:20 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a farmer, I strongly support SB2996 SD1.
we must st stay on top  f this terrible pest.
Mahalo,

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:26:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Dillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For all the reasons provided by State of Hawaii officials and other experts in support, I also support the funding of this bill. Hawaii Ant Lab staff services are among the most important of all services the State of Hawaii can provide to the general public for its health and well being.

Thanks very much for your support for SB2996 SD1.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:40:56 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance Kimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think more needs to be done to protect Hawaii from further infestations of LFA. Every time we go to Big Island to visit friends and family, it's a shame to not be able to walk with my son without fear of LFAs dropping down on us and inflicting pain.

LFA's clearly inhibit our ability to sell intra and out of state relevant crops and ornamentals. This is hurting our economy. Please provide continued funding to address this ticking time bomb.

I know for Oahu people we don't care so much about neighbor island problems. But man, if this were to hit Oahu and we can't contain it (although we have had outbreaks), you will see lots of angry residents clamoring for something to be done. But it will be done too late by then.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 12:48:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TEKI DAWN VICKERS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Little fire Ants are detrimental to every aspect of Hawaiian life. An entity already exists to research and address the LFA problem, it only need funding. Please support Hawaii Ant Lab (HAL) by passing Senate Bill 2996.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 5:16:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a farm and producer of agricultural products, we have been battling the Little Fire Ant for over 15 years. I don't think we can eradicate this ant on the island of Hawaii, but it is important to keep it's infestations under control. That is why the continued research of the Hawaii Ant Lab is important. Their citizen education program is vital to keeping LFA from entering new areas and helping to diminish its impact on the agricultural sector. This is one invasive species that we can succeed in relegating to a minor pest if we keep on it.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 10:46:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Nui,

Please support this effort to address LFA.

Mahalo,

Kimeona Kane

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 5:06:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Continuing to support control efforts for LFA is an imperative step in reducing what could become an irreversible negative impact on our ecosystems and communities.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 6:20:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Before little fire ants invaded my yard, I could trim trees and vines without worry. Now I have tried the regular treatments and they keep coming back. I have gotten them in my clothes resulting in multiple painful bites. I take extra care when cutting down bananas or coffee because no matter what I do the little fire ants come back. My son can barely enjoy his treehouse because he is afraid of getting stung by little fire ants after a couple painful experiences. I would love to support any group helping us find solutions to this issue! I want to enjoy my yard again with out getting attacked by these little invasive ants. Mahalo!

**TESTIMONY OF CASPER VANDERWOUDE
MANAGER, HAWAI'I ANT LAB, PACIFIC COOPERATIVE STUDIES UNIT, UNIVERSITY OF
HAWAII**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1 23 2022
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
01:30 P.M.**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2996
RELATING TO ANTS**

Chairperson Hashem and members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in support of Senate Bill 2996, relating to invasive ants. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources for research, extension, and control of the little fire ant and other harmful ants.

The little Fire Ant was first detected on the island of Hawai'i by the HDOA island entomologist in 1999. Since that time, it has spread throughout Hawai'i island and is now also found on O'ahu, Maui and Kaua'i. The impact of this species on Hawai'i agriculture, tourism and residents has been profound: hampering crop productivity, stinging farm workers and domestic animals alike, affecting the daily lives of residents and tourists as well as well as threatening Hawaii's fragile ecosystems and wildlife refuges.

Since 2009 the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) has provided support to affected industries and residents, developed more effective control methodologies and contributed to preventing the intra and inter-island spread of little fire ants in Hawai'i. Hal was funded entirely through non-recurring grants until 2018 when ongoing funding was provided to employ two extension staff. However, the remaining 9 staff are substantially under-funded, resulting in 50% reduction of their working hours in 2022 and potentially greater reductions expected for 2023. These reductions threaten delivery of much needed support to the people and businesses of Hawai'i, especially in agriculture.

SB2996 appropriates unspecified funds for Hawai'i Ant Lab to continue providing extension support to residents and affected agricultural industries, both on Hawai'i island and statewide; implementing early detection programs and eradication plans on O'ahu and other neighbor islands; and continuing the research program that has provided many of the control breakthroughs over the past decade.

The HAL team has a worldwide reputation for excellence and innovation, and provides an essential service to the residents of Hawai'i. Sadly, Little Fire Ants are here to stay and as

they continue to spread, their impacts will also increase. Hawai'i needs a stable, ongoing and annually funded program that provides technical assistance and support, minimizes the rate of spread and develops new management methodologies. The HAL team has been fulfilling these needs for many years on year-to-year funds from competitive and discretionary grants. This has required enormous effort which could otherwise be allocated to providing an increased level of service provision. I urge the committee to consider funding this program on an ongoing basis.

Please support this bill and thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Casper Vanderwoude

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 9:00:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kathleen mishina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a homeowner in Volcano, Hawaii Island, and have been adversely impacted by Little Fire Ants. Hawaii Ant Lab has been my best resource for information on latest control measures. They are continually conducting research and their extensions specialists are invaluable and easily accessible to anyone. I was empowered to take control of LFA on our property and could not have undertaken control, mitigation measures without them. Please support SB 2996 which will provide funding to DLNR and the Hawaii Ant Lab. Sincerely, Kathleen Mishina

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:38:37 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I am in support of the passing of SB2996 to provide funding for research and prevention of Little Fire Ants. Little Fire Ants can negatively impact our outdoor experiences, especially if the issue gets out of hand. Please allow funding to help prevent the spread of Little Fire Ants.

Mahalo,

Student of Henry J. Kaiser High School

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:39:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valentina Lorenzotti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I am in support of the passing of SB2996 to provide funding for research and prevention of Little Fire Ants. Little Fire Ants can negatively impact our outdoor experiences, especially if the issue gets out of hand. Please allow funding to help prevent the spread of Little Fire Ants.

Mahalo,

Student of Henry J. Kaiser High School

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:39:39 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaz Tsang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

I am in support of the passing of SB2996 to provide funding for research and prevention of Little Fire Ants. Little Fire Ants can negatively impact our outdoor experiences, especially if the issue gets out of hand. Please allow funding to help prevent the spread of Little Fire Ants.

Mahalo,

Student of Henry J. Kaiser High School

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:56:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Koa Eiserloh Henry J. Kaiser High School and I AM IN SUPPORT OF SB2996.

When I was little my family and I used to go to Kapiolani park and would play games together, I one time went by myself to go check out a cemented fire pit and I remember playing by it and then trying to look over it and into it and then all of a sudden I started feeling sharp pain all over my legs and I remember looking down to see tons of fire ants swarming around my leg taking turns biting them. I was in so much pain running back to my family and getting ice on it as soon as possible but there was non stop stinging pain and I just couldn't get over it.

Mahalo,

Koa Eisherloh

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:57:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alexis Yee, a junior from Henry J. Kaiser High School and I'm in support of SB2996.

As a student who has grown up on the islands, I have directly seen the effects of the little fire ants on our ecosystems and environment. The little fire ant is responsible for reducing local species diversity and having economic disparities. Not allowing the Hawaii Ant Lab to continue operations with funding would be detrimental to the next generations to follow. Little fire ants would be left to be an unsolvable issue if we do not handle them now while we still can. Keeping them under control is very important to preserve the natural environment and the generations to come.

Mahalo,

Alexis Y.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 10:57:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiden Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of SB2996 which would increase the funding towards the Hawaii Ant Lab it would be one more step towards the removal of the Little Fire Ant from the Hawaiian Islands. The removal of these ants would greatly improve the livelihood of the people caught in the infestations. It would also improve the health of the ecosystems affected by the Little Fire Ant. These ants must be put under control before they become a widespread problem on all of the Hawaiian Islands. They would cause much more economic problems and damage if they were to spread out more. I hope there will be more bills in the future to help prevent the spread of this and other invasive species plaguing these islands.

Sincerely,

Aiden Young

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:04:26 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amelia Hamilton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

March 30, 2022

Senators and Committees

of the Agriculture, Environment,

Water and Land

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran

We are Amelia, Kennedy, and Kiana from Kaiser High School. We support SB2996 and we would like you to please consider that you do the same.

We are familiar with the harmful effects of fire ants. Hawaii heavily relies on imports to supply the people that live here. It is easy for invasive creatures to sneak into the islands and destroy our fragile ecosystem. We need protection and programs in place to protect our islands. For this reason, we would gratefully appreciate the continuation of funding to reduce the possibility of this invasion of fire ants becoming more severe.

We haven't seen any fire ants on campus and we would like to keep it that way. Not only would the students be affected, but the animals we share campus with could also be severely harmed.

We hope you please consider supporting SB2996 and providing sufficient funding to rid our islands of fire ants or at least prevent the spread.

Mahalo

Students of Kaiser High School

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 11:13:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Almario	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair and Members,

We are students of Kaiser High School and are in support of Senate Bill 2996, which allocates \$600,000 to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. We feel passionate about this issue because we care about our island.

A guest speaker from the Oahu Invasive Species Committee came to our school and informed us about the danger of fire ants. We learned about how they negatively impact our environment, as well as people and even animals. If action is not taken to terminate the issue of the fire ants, it will continue to spread and cause further issues, destroying our island.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 12:20:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support of SB2996. The importance of funding ant research in Hawaii cannot be overemphasized- the future of our agriculture and way of life depends on catching and controlling these invasive species early, which can only be done when programs are fully funded.

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

My name is Rex, a student at Kaiser High School, and I support SB2996. Recently, Ms. Jamie Miller of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) came to speak about threatening invasive species, including LFA. Prior to this, I had only heard about LFA in passing, never truly understanding the full implications of widespread invasion. Losing native species, such as the many indigeonous birds that live in the state, would mean losing the history, culture, and nature of Hawai'i.

The raw beauty of nature in Hawai'i, complimented by its uniqueness, fills me and many others with pure joy and emotion that can't be replicated by anything else. Without stopping LFA, they will destroy this forever, leaving a permanent emptiness in us all, knowing that we were unable to take care of the environment that defined Hawai'i and its culture.

Though we are lucky enough to not have LFA widespread on every island in the state yet, they still pose an imminent threat to almost every island. For many people on O'ahu, including myself, we haven't seen their effects first-hand. Keeping it this way is needed, but in order to guarantee safety in the future, immediate and consistent action is needed from both the government and citizens to not underestimate their capability to destroy.

The monetary funds provided by SB2996 will not only improve research on how to mitigate the spread of LFA, but will also fund more outreach. Providing more media coverage, campaigns, and outreach programs will ensure that the public is educated about LFA. For widespread problems such as these, a crucial and major part of the solution is rooted in the support and action of the general public, which can only come with more awareness.

Mahalo,

Rex Bregman

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 3:15:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Merle Hayward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this bill because Hawaii Ant Lab has been very effective in teaching land owners and businesses how to eliminate and then protect from more fire ants. Fire ants infest very easily, so support for research and control is needed.

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 10:14:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

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: 3/31/2022 11:48:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Ant Lab has helped combat the spread of LFA in Hawaii. Without them, we would have no treatment option for LFA. How will we eradicate then species of ant that arrives in Hawaii without HAL?

SB-2996-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2022 12:20:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/1/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ersel Hensley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Folks,

Little Fire Ants (*Wasmannia auropunctata*) are the worst thing for us in the Hawaii Islands! In order to protect our keiki (children) and aina (land), **SB2996 must be approved with the highest potential!!**

Mahalo,

Ersel Hensley