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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, February 23, 2022
10:05 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Senate Bill 3379 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Ports-of-Entry Biosecurity Program (formerly known as Māmalu Poepoe) started as a pilot project in 2016 to fill a critical gap in pest monitoring at Hawaii's airports. The Program is administered by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) under the Department (Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes) and is a multi-agency program that includes the State Departments of Health, Agriculture, and Transportation, the Island Invasive Species Committees and the Hawaii Ant Lab. Current monitoring efforts occur at Hawaii's airports and focus on four primary pests: Africanized bees, invasive ants, mosquitoes, and coconut rhinoceros beetle. Each of these targets could easily hitchhike on planes, slip through inspections, and impact multiple sectors of the local economy, human health, and our way of life in the islands. The monitoring efforts complement those of the federal and state agency commodity inspections.

The 5-year pilot project demonstrated the need to continue monitoring efforts not only at airports but expand to seaports and add target pests to the current list, based on feedback from state and federal agencies. Some program highlights include:

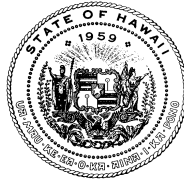
- Coordination of the development of a response plan for Africanized bees.
- Intercepted *Aedes aegypti* at Kahului airport in 2017, a mosquito species currently restricted to Hawaii Island and an effective vector of Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika and other arboviruses (viruses spread to people by the bite of infected insects such as mosquitoes and ticks).

- Coordinated efforts for mosquito response at Honolulu Harbor in 2021.
- Developed Best Management Practices for airport contractors and workers for all target species under the program.
- Coordinated the development of Standard Operating Procedures for detecting *Aedes* mosquitoes.

HISC is currently working with the Department of Transportation-Harbors on a plan for monitoring at Honolulu Harbor. The continuation and expansion of the Program are dependent on securing additional funding. Small investments in early detection and rapid response programs are the most cost-effective way to deal with invasive species and can save the state billions of dollars in economic losses and damages.

The Department requests amending the appropriation to be expended by the Department through (LNR 402). This will ensure the multiagency nature of the Program continues and facilitate quick implementation since the program is already administered through HISC.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

SENATOR DONOVAN L. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: 2/23/2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Provides appropriations to the Department of Agriculture
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health supports SB 3379 which appropriates funds
- 3 for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program.
- 4 In 2017, Mamalu PoePoe (MMPP) was established as a 5-year collaborative program within the
- 5 Department of Land and Natural Resources/Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to bring
- 6 together resources from DLNR, Dept. of Agriculture, Dept. of Health (DOH), the University of
- 7 Hawaii and federal partners to facilitate a cooperative partnership in the detection and
- 8 prevention of invasive species from entering Hawaii through the ports of entry. The DOH,
- 9 Vector Control Branch has greatly benefitted from the knowledge, expertise and funding
- 10 provided by MMPP to help expand our mosquito surveillance program at airports and harbors.
- 11 In 2017 at Kahului Airport, with assistance from MMPP, Maui Vector Control staff intercepted
- 12 mosquito larvae and prevented the breeding of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito; the mosquito known to
- 13 transmit vector borne diseases such as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya, Yellow Fever, and Zika.
- 14 Most recently in 2021, the Oahu Vector Control staff identified an adult *Aedes aegypti* mosquito
- 15 at one of its routine monitoring stations at Honolulu Harbor, Pier 2. MMPP assisted in DOH's
- 16 response by providing technical assistance, securing additional sampling equipment and
- 17 facilitating and coordinating access to secure locations at the harbor.

1 The infrastructure already established through DLNR/HISC and specifically through MMPP, has
2 been invaluable in the development of an interagency Standard Operating Procedures Manual for
3 invasive species, and bringing together agency experts to strengthen and protect Hawai's
4 biosecurity.

5

6 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

FEBRAURY 23, 2022

10:05 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 211 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

VIDEOCONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 8, 2022, 3:00PM

SENATE BILL NO. 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 3379. The bill affirms that proactive investment in strengthening a port-of-entry biosecurity program is more economic in protecting Hawaii from invasive species than reactionary actions. The Department supports the bill and offers the following comments.

The bill appropriates funds to continue the ports-of-entry biosecurity program, which the Department has initiated and been a part of since the implementation of the Biosecurity Program. The Department is well suited to continue the ports-of-entry biosecurity program due to its statutory authority to inspect cargo at airports and marine ports of the State. The Department's experienced Plant Quarantine inspectors have the



authority and accreditation to inspect arriving cargo for the presence of hitchhiking invasive pests that would not be found using just traps and lures, such as the brown marmorated stink bug and egg masses of the spotted lantern fly. The Department has in place a well-defined plan to expend the appropriated funds as allocated in the bill to mitigate the risk of invasive species arriving through high-risks sites, such as our airports and marine ports as intended in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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
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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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 3379

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

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

Senate Bill No. 3379 appropriates \$525,000 in general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Agriculture's ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

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.



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Helping to keep Hawai'i
clean, green, beautiful,
livable and sustainable
since 1912

Feb 21, 2022

RE: Letter of SUPPORT of SB3379 Relating to Biosecurity Program Invasive Species Monitoring Program Funding

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Senate Committee on Ways and Means Members,

For the last 110 years, The Outdoor Circle has planted hundreds of thousands of trees in projects across the Hawaiian Island for beautification, cooling effects, and many of the documented ecosystem service benefits. While we are constantly needing to increase the number of trees we plant, and we lose net urban canopy tree coverage every year. This trend is exacerbated and accelerated by invasive species which can wreak havoc on our trees, flora and native fauna, our agricultural sector, and tourism. The collective loss is measured not only in a loss of beauty and habitat, but also in health benefits for the human and animal population, and enormous financial sums needed for treatment and eradication efforts, which are often failures once an invasive species is released.

If brown tree snakes or different mosquito species or other insects were introduced with pathogens, the effect on native animals and possibly health of humans would be devastating. We have also seen that fire ants or coqui frogs have major effects on the quality of life and economic impact for area residents, and were all introduced invasive species.

Over the past many years, we have seen budgets cut for monitoring of invasive species to levels which pose serious threats to our unique island flora and fauna. Our state already holds the dubious distinction of having the most endangered species in the nation, and we must do all we can to prevent further loss whenever possible. One wise and important way to counteract damage is by aggressive surveillance at ports of entry for early detection and rapid response. SB3379 exactly helps with this biosecurity and its critical work in the community. The return of every dollar spent on this program is enormous, especially considering its low costs, and its economic benefit cannot be overstated.

We ask that you adopt SB3379 to protect Hawaii, its people, animals, plants and economy from invasive species.

Warm aloha and mahalo,

Winston Welch, Executive Director



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 3379
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 211 & Videoconference
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Keith-Agaran, 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 3379, which appropriates funds for a ports-of-entry biosecurity program.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i'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, coffee leaf rust, macadamia felted coccid, brown tree snake, little fire ant, two-lined spittlebug, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk.

Funding the HDOA's ports-of-entry biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide necessary resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawai'i.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important subject.



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2022
10:35 a.m., via Videoconference

Testimony in Support of SB 3379

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of SB 3379, *Relating to Biosecurity***. The aim of this measure is to provide funding for the continuation and expansion of a port-of-entry invasive pest monitoring program.

Hawai‘i air and sea ports receive and move an incredible amount of conveyances—planes, ships, cargo, and even the shipping pallets and containers themselves—and each provides an opportunity for a new pest to arrive. While federal and state agencies focus on inspecting items that are considered high-risk for carrying pests, certain pests can be particularly elusive during inspection processes, or they may enter in or on items that are not under close scrutiny, for example:

- Africanized honeybees (a particularly aggressive hybrid between European and African bee subspecies) can arrive unnoticed on cargo containers, and may not be seen by port workers until too late.
- New species of mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases can also arrive in aircraft holds or cabins. The arrival of malaria, zika, and many others would change our lives forever.

For these reasons the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council agencies and partners worked together to set up and operate a 5-year pilot program that monitored for these and other pests at key airports in Hawai‘i. The DOT-funded project used a variety of monitoring traps around airport facilities to detect a short list of pests.

A review of the airport monitoring program, Mamalu Poepoe, was conducted in 2021 and found that key partners thought that the program was important, helpful, and effective. Further, agency partners thought that the program should expand to include some key locations around Honolulu Harbor, such as the Foreign Trade Zone and major cargo operations.

It may also be helpful to know that the Mamalu Poepoe program expanded capacities of agencies including the Hawai‘i Department of Health and Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, and focused efforts of existing organizations including the Hawai‘i Ant Lab, the Invasive Species Committees, honeybee and other research work at the University of Hawai‘i. Dr. Leyla Kaufman, the Mamalu Poepoe program coordinator, has done a tremendous job of putting the program together, working with multiple agencies, and instituting a variety of monitoring and rapid response protocols for the different pests. The initial investment has been more than worth the outcome, and we think that investing in the expansion of the program will also be well worth the cost. Thank you for your consideration of SB 3379.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

SB-3379

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 9:54:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Strengthening biosecurity is essential to protect us from introduced invasives that could become a disaster if established in Hawaii (the brown tree snake comes to mind). Hawaii has neglected and underfunded this critical function for many years. It is long past time to reverse that trend. Please pass SB3379