



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Testimony of
Linda L. Smith
Senior Policy Advisor to the Governor

Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, February 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 308

H.B. 2504 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Dear Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony **in support** of HB 2504. This is a bill proposed by the Administration to require the deposit of nursery certification fees into the Pest Inspection, Quarantine and Eradication Fund.

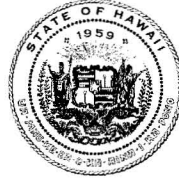
There is a clear nexus between the work done by the Department of Agriculture inspectors in examining plants and ensuring that stock coming into and out of the State is pest and pathogen free. This bill recognizes this nexus and allows the fees that are associated with the nursery certification services to be deposited into the fund that pays for the personnel that handle this function.

We understand the industry is discussing the need to adjust the current fees and will work with the Administration to implement changes in the fees to cover these expenses.

Enactment will mean less funds will be deposited into the general fund, estimated to be about \$15,000 annually, which has been incorporated into the six-year financial plan submitted by the Governor.

The Administration wants to extend our appreciation to the Chair for scheduling this bill and we encourage your support for this measure.

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2010
3:00 P.M.
ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2504
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2504. The purpose of this bill is to allow for nursery certification fees to be deposited into the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund.

The department strongly supports this measure and would suggest that the proposed revisions included in House Bill No. 2294, H.D. 1 (subsection (a) under section 150A-4.5 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as well as section 150A-23, HRS), be incorporated into this measure, which has similar proposed revisions and components that relate to the deposit of nursery certification fees into the pest, inspection, quarantine and eradication fund.



Hawaii Farm Bureau
F E D E R A T I O N

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TESTIMONY

HB 2504 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation on behalf of our farmer and ranch families and organizations support HB 2504 providing for a Pest Inspection, Quarantine and Eradication Fund from deposits for nursery certification.

The industry has recognized the dire state of the State Budget. We believe that an evolution to a true fee for services structure will help ensure protection of public interests while continuing business in a timely manner. We have discussed this with our nursery operators and others that require certification. We believe this measure provides a means to move to ensure timely certifications to meet marketing needs.

HFBF strongly requests your support of this measure along with timely passage of rules and regulations so the measure can be implemented as soon as possible. If there are any questions, please contact Luella Costales at 848 2074. Thank you

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting H.B. 2504 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, February 18, 2010, 3:00pm, Rm. 308

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on O'ahu, Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.B. 2504 Relating to Invasive Species and requiring that nursery certification fees be deposited into the pest inspection, quarantine and eradication fund to help support improved inspection capacity and services at the Department of Agriculture (HDOA).

Invasive insects, diseases, snakes, weeds, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people.

The HDOA is responsible for the inspection and permitting of arriving cargo and interisland cargo shipments to protect the state from unwanted plant and animal pests and diseases. The Department developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Plan to enhance its efforts with more inspectors, more efficient and effective inspection services, joint state-federal inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols before items are shipped to Hawai'i and between the islands. Past financial and personnel support provided by the Legislature has been essential to implementing this plan.

Unfortunately, the current budget conditions in the State have caused drastic—and potentially catastrophic—reductions in the Department's capability to inspect cargo entering and moving between the islands:

- 28 of 50 general funded inspectors have been laid off across the State;
- At Honolulu International Airport (HNL), there are now only 6 inspectors where there used to be 19; and
- Insect interceptions by inspectors at HNL have dropped from about 150 per month down to about 10 per month.

The Department's inspection capacity has dropped so far below anything that can reasonably be expected to be effective that there is a good chance that we won't know what new pest has arrived and been distributed across the islands until there is an outbreak of some kind.

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