

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512

SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DUANE K. OKAMOTO
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010
10:00 A.M.
ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 203
Recognizing the Efforts of the Kauai Beekeepers Association and Other Key
Stakeholders for their Efforts to Assist the Department of Agriculture with Education and
Prevention of the Varroa Mite and Other Invasive Species**

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 304. The Kauai Beekeepers Association (KBEE) and other key stakeholders on the island of Kauai have been working in close coordination with the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) Plant Pest Control Branch (PPC) and should be recognized for these efforts. Their work on education and prevention for varroa mite and other key bee pests is critical for the protection of their industry, particularly now with HDOA's reduced coverage on Kauai. KBEE and other beekeepers have assisted us with swarm and hive removals, participated in surveys and will be working with us to monitor swarm traps, all of which greatly improves the ability to detect varroa early on the island, respond in a more vigorous fashion and mitigate the effects varroa mite has on the beekeeping industries and those growers dependent upon bees for pollination services.

The Department fully supports this measure.

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



George K. Costa
Director

Gary K. Heu
Administrative Assistant

Office of Economic Development
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
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March 17, 2010

Honorable Clift Tsuji
Chair, Committee on Agriculture
State House
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 312
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Tsuji and Members:

RE: HCR203 RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF THE KAUA'I BEEKEEPERS ASSOCIATION AND OTHER KEY STAKEHOLDERS FOR THEIR EFFORTS TO ASSIST THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE WITH EDUCATION AND PREVENTION OF THE VARROA MITE AND OTHER INVASIVE SPECIES.

The County of Kauai supports HCR203 and thanks the committee for this recognition of the efforts of the Kauai Beekeepers Association for cooperating with state agencies to keep Kauai free of the Varroa Mite. The County of Kauai has provided a small grant to help cover these efforts as has Young Brothers, and your recognition of this effort is appreciated.

Your consideration and approval of this resolution is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

George K. Costa
Director
Office of Economic Development
County of Kauai

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 17, 2010 12:30 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: jtluvmw@lava.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR203 on 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM HCR203

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: james trujillo
Organization: Kauai Beekeeper's Association
Address: 1728 Hulu Rd Kapaa
Phone: 821 0732
E-mail: jtluvmw@lava.net
Submitted on: 3/17/2010

Comments:

Mahalo for supporting this resolution as it recognizes the incredible value that honeybees have on our environmental and economical well being. In addition, it recognizes the important work that our Department of Agriculture has to do in supporting and maintaining apiary activities on Kauai. Mahalo to our legislative team for supporting another facet of Kauai's rich and diverse agricultural heritage.

With respect and aloha,

James G Trujillo
Chair, Kauai Beekeeper's Association

TESTIMONY FOR HCR 203

From: Jose Bulatao, Jr.

Organization & Title: Kauai Beekeepers Association,
Executive Committee Member

To: House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

Date & Time of Hearing: Friday March 19, 2010, 10:00am

Measure Number: HCR 203

From the desk of
Jose Bulatao, Jr.
4614 Kokee Road, Kekaha, Kauai, HI 96752
Tel: (808) 337-9135/ email address: mrb@hawaiiink.net

Testimony submittal: March 17, 2010

*"Humpty Dumpty sat on the wall,
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall,
All the king's horses and all the king's men
Could not put Humpty Dumpty together again."
-familiar nursery rhyme*

If one can imagine *Humpty Dumpty* representing this fleet of islands regarded as the "crossroads of the Pacific"...paradise on earth...the aloha spirit... and a place with a magnitude of vistas of scenic wonders, all of these things would be just starting points about what makes Hawaii a special place on the planet, Earth.

That being said, what are we to do if this "special place" loses it's essence...it's vitality...it's priceless resources... or it's capabilities to be bountiful? Moreso, what if such deterioration occurs because of apathy, neglect, ignorance, or arrogance on the part of those of us who have forgotten that here, in Hawaii: *The land is chief; we are but stewards of the land.*"

There are limits to our carrying capacities. The extent to which Hawaii may be accessed by air or by sea is almost infinite. The means by which monitoring systems may be devised to check for threatening species that may be harmful and/or destructive is cost-prohibitive, if not nearly impossible.

This simple nursery rhyme about *Humpty Dumpty* may be a wake-up call for all of us. Unless and until we take drastic measures to do what is right in protecting and preserving what limited resources we have---both culturally and environmentally---it may become virtually impossible to restore, retain, and reclaim, our "Beloved Hawaii".

Respectfully submitted,

Jose Bulatao, Jr.

TESTIMONY FOR HCR 203

From: Erik Coopersmith

Organization & Title: Kauai Beekeepers Association,
Vice Chair

To: House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture

Date & Time of Hearing: Friday March 19, 2010, 10:00am

Measure Number: HCR 203

The island of Kauai is one of the last places on the entire planet with 'clean' honeybees. Therefore, the Kauai Beekeeper's Association would be most appreciative if the Agriculture Committee would support HCR203, which points out both the value and the plight of Kauai's honeybees, and also recognizes the combined efforts of the Department of Agriculture and the Kauai Beekeepers Association (KBee) in preserving our Garden Island's healthy natural environment, food pollination, and beekeeping activities by maintaining a healthy honeybee population.

In these lean fiscal times, the private sector, government and non-profit organizations are finding it essential to work collaboratively on critical issues such as this, or risk failure altogether. The relationship between DOA and KBee is a great example of such partnerships.

I would like to thank and applaud the Kauai legislative delegation for sponsoring this Resolution.

Mahalo,

Erik Coopersmith
Kauai Beekeepers Association, Vice Chair

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 8:47 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: alicefurst@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR203 on 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM HCR203

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alice Furst
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: alicefurst@sbcglobal.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

The Kauai BeeKeeper's Association is a unique and effective force in maintaining the health and survival of Kauai's honeybee population. HCR203 merits full legislative support.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 12:26 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: debbie_96754@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR203 on 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM HCR203

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah Erickson
Organization: Human Race
Address: 7655 Koolau Rd Kilauea
Phone: 808 828-1174
E-mail: debbie_96754@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

As a Bee Keeper on Kauai, a member of KBEE, and a concerned human. Please support HCR203. Our Island of Kauai is one of the last places left without the Varroa Mite. We need to protect our bees. Einstein said without the bees for pollination, the human race would perish in several years. NO BEES = NO FOOD Mahalo for supporting HCR203

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 18, 2010 3:29 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HCR203 on 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 3/19/2010 10:00:00 AM HCR203

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: chris kobayashi
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: waioli2@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/18/2010

Comments:

aloha to chair tsuji, representative wooley and committee members.

thank you, especially to our kauai representatives : tokioka, morita and sagum, for introducing this resolution recognizing the efforts that KBee, DOA and certain researchers from UH would like to continue doing to keep kauai bees, varroa mite free.

KBee formed to be proactive after learning that varroa mites were detected on the big island in 2008. (oahu was already infested).

many don't realize the role bees play in the entire ecosystem. just imagine what would happen to our landscape, forests, flowers and food if they disappeared. many vegetable crops depend on bee pollination-for example, cucumbers, pumpkins, squash, zucchini, watermelons, and other crops for seed saving like the brassicas.

the bees are essential to sustainability.

mahalo for your support in recognizing this.