HB 1568 HD2, SD1

NEIL ABERCROMBIE





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 07, 2011 9:30 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1568, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of House Bill 1568, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1 to establish adequate biosecurity and inspection facilities at major airports and harbors in the State to strengthen and support Hawaii's agricultural industry, but defers to the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Transportation to find the best solutions for funding and implementation.

Because transportation by air and sea have been identified as the risk pathways for invasive species into the State of Hawaii, appropriate inspection facilities and consistent inspection activities are crucial to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public. These facilities are a "need to have", not just "nice to have" component of the program. By initiating and continuing the implementation of biosecurity facilities, House Bill 1568, House Draft 2 reduces the likelihood of and economic loss associated with additional invasive species introductions and a quarantine on Hawaii's exported goods. The Department supports the intent of House Bill 1568, House Draft 2 and urges an expeditious resolution of the issues.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI

WILLIAM M. TAM DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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Submitted on: 4/5/2011

Comments:

I urge you to support any and all measures to prevent invasive species from entering the islands and to fund their removal/comtrol. this is a huge issue for agriculture, residents, tourists (who wants to come to Hawai'i to hear the coqui), and the hawaiian ecosystem. Mahalo nui loa