

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 25 2016
11:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2424 HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2424 HD1. This bill would establish a new part in chapter 150A, HRS that would allow for the department to enter into private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and for the department to adopt rules to establish parameters and construction requirements for biosecurity facilities. The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the priorities in the Administration's budget.

The Department has been working with freight forwarders, airlines, produce importers, and others to develop inspection facilities, manifesting systems, database sharing and other avenues to enhance the effectiveness of our biosecurity program. This bill will strengthen our ability to work collaboratively with our partners.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**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**

**Thursday, February 25, 2016
11:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2424, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Bill 2424, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to enter into private-public partnerships to implement enhancements to the biosecurity program described in Section 150A-53, Hawaii Revised Statutes, and would appropriate funds to support projects that enhance the HDOA biosecurity program. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that it does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing Department appropriated funding.**

The Department recognizes the importance of port-of-entry biosecurity systems and supports opportunities to enhance this system through innovative partnerships. The interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), of which the Department and the HDOA are co-chairs, conducted a stakeholder survey in late 2014 on legislative concepts relating to biosecurity. This survey found that the majority of respondents (78%) supported the concept of utilizing private-public partnerships in enhancing biosecurity systems. Detailed survey responses are available in a summary report from the HISC website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>. With regard to the topics identified for potential funding support, the Department recognizes these as appropriate areas for program development.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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



House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
February 25, 2016
11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 2424 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 2424 HD1, *Relating to Biosecurity***, which appropriates funds to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to develop and implement new diagnostics to identify new pests; develop new pesticide and quarantine treatment options to reduce or treat pests; promote local production of imported agricultural commodities that tend to be high-risk for carrying pests; and conduct related outreach.

The proposed insertion of wording into HRS Chapter 150A-53 provides a clarification regarding the need for planning and building quarantine/inspection facilities, transitional facilities and related infrastructure, and a directive to begin the process. However, we note that the five project areas which may be funded through HB 2424 does not expressly include the ability to fund the planning of these facilities. Inspections at Honolulu International Airport are conducted in temporary spaces, in less-than-optimal conditions, with minimal or no climate control to protect against food-spoilage. Currently, only Kahului Airport has a functional inspection facility, although it was designed and built prior to Food Safety Modernization Act guidelines, and may not meet the standards that are being developed, and would benefit from design planning to meet those standards. It is our hope that these important components of the Biosecurity Program can be listed as one of the top priority uses of these funds in future drafts.

We respectfully ask your support HB 2424 HD1. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

HCIA 2014 - 2016 Board of Directors

President
Kirby Kester

Vice-President
Alan Takemoto

Secretary
Dawn Bicoy

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Keith Horton

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President Emeritus
Mark Phillipson

Executive Director
Bennette Misalucha

OUR MISSION

HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices and build a healthy economy.

In Strong Support of HB 2424 –HD1
Relating to BioSecurity

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Thursday, 02-25 -16 11:00 AM in House conference room 308

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto and members of the Committee,

My name is Bennette Misalucha, Executive Director of the Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA). HCIA is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization promoting agricultural bio tech to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy state economy.

HCIA is in strong support of HB2424-HD1.

The unbridled spread of invasive species is one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, environment, and health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. As an association of farmers, we understand the hardships detrimental pests can cause to both the land and local crops.

Hawaii's distinctive ecosystem boasts unique conditions that are ideal for year-around agricultural activity. HCIA supports initiatives meant to secure and maintain this delicate system. Providing the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture the ability to establish public-private partnerships to expand biosecurity facilities will bolster Hawaii's defenses and help secure this initiative.

HCIA's member companies are consistently on the forefront of mitigating pest damage to locally grown crops. Our experience has taught us the importance of creating a culture that allows the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture Pest Control Branch the necessary tools to take up this task statewide.

In closing, HB2424 will not only diversify Hawaii's defense against invasive species. It will demonstrate a commitment to protecting Hawaii's land, farmers, and residents for years to come.

We thank you for this time and hope that you will vote in favor of HB2424.

Sincerely,
Bennette Misalucha
Executive Director, Hawaii Crop Improvement Association



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

February 25, 2016

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2424, HD1
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 308
11:00 AM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB supports with comments HB 2424, HD1 which provides funds and requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process.

During these days of limited resources, public-private partnerships are important opportunities to provide service and opportunities by government. The Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts is a good example of a public-private partnership that has proven its' value over time. It couples volunteers with State and County resources, accomplishing much more than any of the participating entities could accomplish on their own.

Another example is the vehicle registration and safety check process. Here, regulatory requirements are implemented by private entities but the final regulatory action is done by the police or other publicly hired entity. No confidential business information is involved.

However, the suggested private-public partnership crosses into an unknown arena. The Plant Quarantine requirements discussed in this measure are not only regulatory in nature but could also involve business information such as the identity of customers and importers. The proposal is not clear as to whether the private party is a transportation company or a party that is currently an importer and expanding their operations. If the party is a transportation company, no problem should exist as they already manage

such business information. However, if the party is an importer, that is providing additional services to other importers, there is a concern whether the private business information provided will give an unfair business advantage to that party. A discussion and clarification of the kinds of private entities that could enter into this partnership is needed.

We respectfully respect your support of this important measure while addressing the concern to ensure that confidential business information is protected. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this measure.



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Finance
Hearing: Thursday, February 25, 2016 11 am
Conference Room 308

In Support of HB 2424 HD 1 Relating to Biosecurity

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2424 HD 1, which requires the Department of Agriculture to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process, and appropriate funds.

We support HB 2424 HD 1 provided the funding is additive and does not come at the expense of other DLNR and Department of Agriculture programs to prevent invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control invasive species already established here.

We urge the legislature to appropriate a total of at least \$50,000,000 annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species."

Invasive species negatively affect the environment, the economy, and our quality of life. They threaten human health and native wildlife. They harm and they kill. We need to spend more money preventing invasive species from taking over our islands. There has never been enough money to do so, and we see the results of that "penny-wise, but pound-foolish" practice of underfunding invasive species control. Please stop nickel and diming programs to protect human health, our quality of life, the environment, and the economy. We can pay now or pay much more later when invasive species spread.

Here is a photograph of the brown treesnake threatening a young child on Guam. Please support HB 2424 HD 1 and other funding mechanisms for invasive species programs.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 220 | Honolulu, HI 96814

President: Julie Leialoha | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Wayne Tanaka
Treasurer: Ryan Belcher | Directors: Rick Barboza | Anne Huggins Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters



Brown tree snake.

HTFC

Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2424HD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

We Strongly **SUPPORT** House **Bill 2424HD1.**

Hawaii's Biosecurity program needs a comprehensive implementation and is considered a needed and essential program for our industry. Building upon the current, though left to the side, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach.

We strongly support this Bill because it sends a clear message to the Department of Agriculture, that the Biosecurity program should be a priority, and should be a **comprehensive prevention system** that helps to stop the entry of invasive species and helps our agricultural industries to become more self-sufficient and sustainable.

We also support the amendment to the biosecurity law that will allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. We do believe that Plant Quarantine inspectors should be doing the inspections as they are hired and trained to perform this task and we would support an increase in the number of inspectors. An increase in inspectors will help to prevent introductions into Hawaii, and will assist in the Biosecurity Plan's implementation.

We also would like the opportunity to provide input and look forward to meeting regularly to discuss issues and working together on initiatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thong Teng Neo", is written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

Thong Teng Neo
Vice President
Hawaii Tropical Flower Council

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 6:23 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Hawaii Tropical Flowers & Foliage Assn.	Support	No

Comments: Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016 State of Hawaii COMMITTEE ON FINANCE Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016 11:00 A.M. Conference Room 308 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street A bill for an act HB2424HD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY. We Strongly SUPPORT House Bill 2424HD1. Hawaii's Biosecurity program needs a comprehensive implementation and is considered a needed and essential program for our industry. Building upon the current, though left to the side, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach. We strongly support this Bill because it sends a clear message to the Department of Agriculture, that the Biosecurity program should be a priority, and should be a comprehensive prevention system that helps to stop the entry of invasive species and helps our agricultural industries to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. We also support the amendment to the biosecurity law that will allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. We do believe that Plant Quarantine inspectors should be doing the inspections as they are hired and trained to perform this task and we would support an increase in the number of inspectors. An increase in inspectors will help to prevent introductions into Hawaii, and will assist in the Biosecurity Plan's implementation. We also would like the opportunity to provide input and look forward to meeting regularly to discuss issues and working together on initiatives.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2016

11:00 A.M.

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

HB2424HD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) Strongly **SUPPORTS** House **Bill 2424HD1**.

A comprehensive implementation of Hawaii's Biosecurity program is an action that is sorely needed and is essential for our industry. HFNA believes that building upon the current, though stalled, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach.

We strongly support this measure because it reaffirms to the Department of Agriculture that the Biosecurity program is vital and is needed to focus on what it was intended to do, which was to establish a **comprehensive prevention system** that would help to stop the entry of invasive species while allowing our agricultural industries to increase levels of self-sufficiency and sustainability.

HFNA supports the amendment to the biosecurity law to allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. Transportation efficiency is a critical component of the growth of agriculture. However, we do agree that inspection should be left to Plant Quarantine inspectors, who are hired and trained to perform this task. We support an increase in the number of inspectors, who can prevent introductions into Hawaii, and also to assist in the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan.



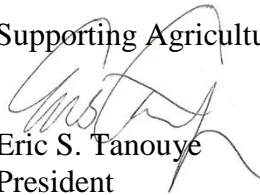
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We hope that we would be able to provide input as an industry. As in the past, when we met regularly to discuss issues and worked together on initiatives.

This is an important and essential program, which has been stalled for too long.

We thank you for your consideration of HB2424HD1. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye

President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 1:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steve_hirakami@notes.k12.hi.us
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakami	HAASPCS	Support	No

Comments: Teachers in charter schools belong to the same union (HSTA) as teachers in traditional public schools. They should receive the same level of support with deserved bonuses. Please also ensure that the funding pathway is established so it is treated as a separate fund that should go directly to the charter school via the authorizer.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 7:46 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sarahentm@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM



HB2424

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We Strongly SUPPORT House Bill 2424HD1. Hawaii's Biosecurity program needs a comprehensive implementation and is considered a needed and essential program for our industry. Building upon the current, though left to the side, Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach. We strongly support this Bill because it sends a clear message to the Department of Agriculture, that the Biosecurity program should be a priority, and should be a comprehensive prevention system that helps to stop the entry of invasive species and helps our agricultural industries to become more self-sufficient and sustainable. We also support the amendment to the biosecurity law that will allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. We do believe that Plant Quarantine inspectors should be doing the inspections as they are hired and trained to perform this task and we would support an increase in the number of inspectors. An increase in inspectors will help to prevent introductions into Hawaii, and will assist in the Biosecurity Plan's implementation.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 25, 2016 3:57 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: shyla.moon@ymail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

LATE

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/25/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: warrenmcfb@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2424 on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM*

LATE

HB2424

Submitted on: 2/24/2016

Testimony for FIN on Feb 25, 2016 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

Orchid Growers Of Hawaii

P.O. Box 4153 Hilo Hawaii 96720

Email : info@ogoh.org

Website : www.ogoh.org

February 24, 2016

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

Committee on Finance

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair

Rep. Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Thursday February 25, 2016

11:00 am

Conference Room 308

State Capitol

HB2424HD1 RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

We Strongly **SUPPORT** House **Bill 2424HD1**

I am the current President of the Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH) a statewide association of more than 60 commercial cut flower and potted plant Orchid Growers.

Hawaii's Biosecurity program needs a comprehensive implementation and is considered a needed and essential program for our industry. Building upon the current though neglected Biosecurity System, would be the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach.

We strongly support this Bill because it sends a clear message to the Department of Agriculture, that the Biosecurity program should be a priority, and should be a **comprehensive prevention system** that helps to stop the entry of invasive species and helps our agricultural industries to become more self-sufficient and sustainable.

We also support the amendment to the biosecurity law that will allow public-private partnerships to continue in the development of facilities. We do believe that Plant Quarantine

inspectors should be doing the inspections as they are hired and trained to perform this task and we would support an increase in the number of inspectors. An increase in inspectors will help to prevent introductions of Invasive Pests into Hawaii, and will assist in the Biosecurity Plan's implementation.

We also would like the opportunity to provide input and look forward to meeting regularly to discuss issues and working together on initiatives.

Sincerely,

Elton Mow
President,
Orchid Growers of Hawaii (OGOH)

Elton Mow
OGOH President

LATE



We Grow 93% of Hawaii Island Agriculture Crops

~ 625,000 acres of land in production ~ \$194 Million in Revenue ~

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 25, 2016

TESTIMONY ON HB 2424 – RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

STRONGLY SUPPORT

Founding Association Members

Hawaii Papaya Industry
Association (HPIA)

Hawaii Cattlemen's Council

Big Island Banana Growers

Hamakua, Hilo & Kohala Farm
Bureau Counties

Hawaii Floriculture & Nursery
Association

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee Members,

My Name is Lorie Farrell; I'm testifying today on behalf of Hawaii Farmers and Ranchers United, Mahalo for allowing us to testify on this matter.

Biosecurity is more than invasive species, although that is a very important component. It involves a comprehensive plan and efforts to help our farmers survive and enabled to export their goods. As you know if our exports are halted due to pests in Hawaii are farmers will be crippled.

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture must be funded to work on Biosecurity as unfunded mandates or initiatives are not helpful to successfully achieving our sustainability goals for Hawaii.

We encourage you to pass HB 2424 as it Supports Ag sustainability, preserving agriculture's future.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Lorie Farrell

Hawaii Farmers & Ranchers United