

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**SHAN S. TSUTSUI**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENERGY AND  
ENVIRONMENT**

March 19, 2015  
3:00 P.M.  
Conference Room 414

**HOUSE BILL NO. 871 HD1  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

Chairpersons Ruderman and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 871 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 IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE  
and  
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 871, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY**

House Bill 871, House Draft 1 proposes to authorize the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to enter in to private-public partnerships to implement enhancements to its biosecurity program and to appropriate funds for HDOA biosecurity program projects. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

With regard to SECTION 2 of this measure, which authorizes the HDOA to enter into private-public partnerships to enhance portions of the biosecurity program, the Department supports this concept. 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, which was promoted via email lists and websites of the HISC and the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation, found that the majority of respondents (78%) supported the concept of private-public partnerships relating to biosecurity. Only 6% of respondents opposed the concept, stating that biosecurity should be the sole responsibility of the State (the remaining 16% of respondents selected "other" and provided additional input that is available in the full survey report from the HISC website, <http://hisc.hawaii.gov>).

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING 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  
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



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March 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 871 HD 1  
RELATING TO BIOSECURITY

Room 414  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB is in strong support of HB 871 HD 1**, which appropriates funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for their biosecurity program. It also requires DOA to establish or participate in private-public partnerships to enhance the biosecurity program and quarantine inspection process. .

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii'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, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle and varoa mite, to name a few. Most recently, the coffee berry borer was found on Oahu demonstrating issues with interisland product movement.

Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability

Funding the HDOA's biosecurity program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state.

This measure addresses the needs of HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawaii and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawaii. HFB is willing to work with the legislature and department to accommodate updates as needed to achieve our goals in biosecurity.

Please pass HB 871 HD 1. Mahalo.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
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**Cc:** [warrenmcfb@gmail.com](mailto:warrenmcfb@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB871 on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:47:42 PM

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**HB871**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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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**Cc:** [gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:gottlieb@hawaii.rr.com)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB871 on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 2:45:01 PM

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**HB871**

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 871 HD1 Relating to Biosecurity  
Senate Committee on Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment  
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 3:30PM, Room 414

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*For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 871 HD1.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive.

Also, evidence from Hawai'i and around the world shows that preventing new pest establishment is exponentially more economical than eradicating a pest or, even worse, controlling it indefinitely once it becomes established. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Program in an effort to enhance invasive species prevention at air and sea ports with more inspectors, enhanced inspection systems and technologies, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols.

This bill provides useful clarifications and authorities related to biosecurity facilities as well as additional funds to support the realization and implementation of the Biosecurity Program.

Thank you for this opportunity to offer our support for this bill.

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The Senate  
Committee on Agriculture  
Committee on Energy and Environment  
March 19, 2015  
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 414  
State Capitol

### **Testimony in Support of HB 871 HD1**

Aloha Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Riviere and Green, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **supports HB 871 HD1, *Relating to Biosecurity***, which authorizes the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to enter into public-private agreements for inspection facilities, and appropriates funds to HDOA to expand the maritime cargo electronic manifest system; 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 crops that tend to be high-risk for carrying pests; and conduct related outreach.

In general, CGAPS urges HDOA to publicly share their overarching biosecurity plan with goals and actions for the next 2, 5, and 10 years.

We also ask for clarity in Section 3, the list of projects that would be funded through an appropriation. For example, the list of projects does not clearly include supporting the costs of planning, building and running, or partnering in running, quarantine inspection facilities, a priority that is featured so heavily in several areas in Section 2, (unless that is what is meant by "Section 3 (6) Improvement of productivity of inspection capacity").

Also, there is an electronic maritime manifest system being used by one shipping company, and the funding could support the expansion of the system to other maritime import and/or interisland shipping companies. However, pathway risk assessments and agriculture inspections have shown that there are more pests arriving in air cargo than in maritime cargo, although the level of risk of species arriving via ship vs. air cargo has not been assessed. CGAPS and HDOA worked with an air cargo carrier to set up an test an electronic air cargo manifest system as a pilot project. The results of the project showed that a higher level of commodity detail is required for air cargo manifests, and the database system within HDOA is outdated and inadequate. A more holistic project for Section 3 might be to "Support the planning, development, and implementation of electronic manifests".

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment on HB 871 HD1, and we respectfully ask your support of this bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,  
Christy Martin  
CGAPS



# Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2015  
State of Hawaii

## COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Josh Green, Vice Chair

THURSDAY MARCH 19, 2015

3:00 P.M.

Conference Room 414

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act

## **HB871HD1 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 Biosecurity Program provides a balance in pest risk, and agriculture. Therefore, the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) and myself, **Strongly SUPPORTS** HB871HD1.

Reaffirming Hawaii's Biosecurity program is an action that is sorely needed and is essential for our industry. HFNA believes that building upon the current Biosecurity System is the most effective, cost-efficient and logical approach.

The Legislature correctly placed the Biosecurity Program in the Plant Quarantine Law because it is based on a quarantine system. For us in agriculture, to compete in a global market, we must speak the same language in trade and commerce. Our goods must be in sync with the quarantine requirements of other states and nations. Biosecurity is the term that the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations (194 member countries) has adopted to facilitate trade or movement among countries.

We strongly support this measure because it instructs the Department to implement the Biosecurity program and to focus back on what it was intended to do, which was to establish a **comprehensive prevention system** that also addressed the further spread of pests.





## Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

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 feel that inspection should be left to Plant Quarantine inspectors, who are hired and trained to perform this task. We support the increase in the number of inspectors to prevent introductions into Hawaii, and also to assist in the implementation of the Biosecurity Plan.

We also approve of having the ability to provide input. In the past, we met regularly to discuss issues and worked together on initiatives and we like the idea of a panel or council of some sort to be able to provide official input to ensure that biosecurity programs be implemented, the inspectors be hired, and the funding be wisely used. This is an important and essential program.

Here are some examples of specific tasks proposed in HB871HD1 that were completed in prior years:

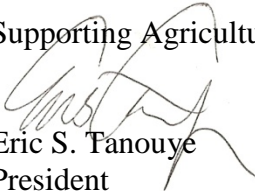
- **Import Replacement.** The Plant Quarantine Branch developed and cultivated suitable eucalyptus and other floral varieties in preparation for the ban on myrtaceae imports. The ban on the importation of myrtaceae was to protect the native ohia trees that are a mainstay in Hawaii's native ecosystems.
- **Quarantine Treatments.** In the past, Plant Quarantine Branch under the Biosecurity Program designed and tested a large-scale prototype of the hot-water treatment research by Dr. Arnold Hara. This hot water treatment is widely used on the Big Island to treat plants for coqui frogs, and has a 100 percent efficacy for the coqui frog.
- **Rapid Response.** Under the past Biosecurity management, the Plant Quarantine Branch was flexible and could provide rapid response to various emergencies that occurred. Two notable occurrences were the introduction of the varroa mite in Hilo, and a ban of Hawaii exports to California. In both instances, the Plant Quarantine inspectors responded quickly, and were successful in resolving the invasive species issues with California.
- **Public Outreach.** The Plant Quarantine Branch highlighted the biosecurity program with several buy local events that have led to increased exposure of local agriculture commodities to the buying public



## Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

We thank you for your consideration of HB871HD1. 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](mailto:eric@greenpointnursery.com).

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye  
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

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**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB871 on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM\*  
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**HB871**

Submitted on: 3/18/2015

Testimony for AGL/ENE on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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