

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 AGRICULTURE**

March 18, 2016  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

**HR144/HCR198  
REQUESTING THE AUDITOR TO CONDUCT A FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT  
AUDIT OF THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH OF THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HR144/HCR198. This resolution requests the auditor to conduct a financial and management audit of the plant quarantine branch and make recommendations on the resources necessary for the branch to fully carry out its purpose and responsibilities. The Department of Agriculture understands the intent of this measure and offers comments.

The department agrees with the statements on the importance in preventing these pests from entering Hawaii and with the negative impact of invasive species. The department has continued to secure outside funding for its biosecurity program bringing in \$4.5 million in the past two fiscal years. This is to prevent the entry and establishment of pests such as brown tree snake, coconut rhinoceros beetle, red imported fire ant, and Africanized bees, among others. The department has also continued to assess the effectiveness of its inspection program at the ports of entry. The plant quarantine branch conducts periodic enhanced inspections to assess the risks of all agricultural commodities imported. Based on these assessments the inspectors focus inspections on the high risk commodities, thus not wasting efforts on



the low risk commodities. These low risk commodities are inspected less frequently. This has allowed the branch to be more effective in its inspections and interceptions of invasive species.

The department feels that the Plant Quarantine Branch has worked hard to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of its operations over the last three years. The Department is open to an audit to assess this effectiveness and to point out new directions that can be taken to improve on this. We would like to note that such an audit will require personnel to take time from their everyday inspection duties as current resources in the Plant Quarantine Branch are limited.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony