

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

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

**Before the Senate Committees on
JUDICIARY AND LABOR
and
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Friday, February 27, 2015
10:05 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1059, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Senate Bill 1059, Senate Draft 1 proposes to enhance biosecurity by establishing restrictions on the interisland movement of pests and infested material, and prohibiting the possession, harboring, transport, rearing, breeding, distribution, or release of a pest, unless permitted by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA). This measure also proposes to authorize the HDOA to place islands or localities within islands under quarantine if designated as infested with a pest, and describes a compliance agreement program to allow material to move out of a quarantined area. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Administration measure.**

The Department recognizes that minimizing the potential for invasive species to move within or between islands is critical to preserving Hawaii's environment, agriculture, and way of life. The Department recognizes the importance of establishing the authorities described in this measure and supports the HDOA's efforts to enhance intrastate biosecurity.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

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LAND
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DAVID Y. IGE
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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 JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND WAYS
AND MEANS**

February 27, 2015
10:05 A.M.
ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1059 SD 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairpersons Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No.1059 SD 1. This bill will reduce the movement of invasive pests between islands by: authorizing inspection of goods moving between islands, prohibiting transportation of infested material, authorizing the department to designate quarantine areas, and authorizes the department to create a compliance agreement program to ensure that qualifying businesses can ship host material from infested areas. The department supports this bill and requests one amendment.

Current regulations require the inspection of all plants and propagative plant parts moving between islands to ensure that they are free of pests. Non-propagative plant parts are also subject to periodic random inspections. The movement of any of these commodities is prohibited if they are infested with a pest. This creates a significant burden for the department and for businesses wishing to move these products between islands as it requires the visual inspection of all commodities in every shipment. A better approach would be to ensure that shipments are free of pests before they are shipped by establishing best management practices and protocols as part of a compliance agreement program. Participants in this program would significantly reduce the risk of them transporting invasive pests by following procedures, farming practices, and protocols that agreed upon in the compliance agreement. Pre-shipment inspections would not be required for participants in the compliance agreement program.



The Department respectfully requests that the word “permitted” on page 5, line 13, be changed to “allowed” as participants in the compliance agreement program will not be required to possess a permit but will be allowed to ship their commodities.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
And

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Friday, February 27, 2015; 10:05 am

By

Robert Bley-Vroman, Chancellor

And

Maria Gallo, Dean

And

J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 1059 SD1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Keith-Agaran and Tokuda, Vice Chairs Shimabukuro and Kouchi, and members of the committees, we respectfully submit testimony in support of SB 1059 SD1, which will reduce movement of invasive species within and between islands by clarifying the authority of the Department of Agriculture with respect to movement and inspection of goods, and designation of quarantine areas; and authorize a compliance agreement program to insure that qualifying agricultural businesses in quarantine areas can transport their commodities with minimal risk of pest or disease spread.

Invasive species pose significant threats to agriculture, natural resources, and human and animal health and well-being in Hawai'i. Coqui frogs, the coffee berry borer, coconut rhinoceros beetles, and little fire ants all provide recent examples of the difficulty of eradication, containment, and prevention of interisland dispersal of introduced pests. Significant resources of the University of Hawai'i, particularly in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, are dedicated to combating these threats.

With rapid dispersal characteristic of invasive species, and limited manpower to enforce inspections and containment, the Department of Agriculture needs the clear authority provided by SB 1059 SD1 for inspection, permitting, and designation of quarantine areas. The compliance agreement program authorized by SB 1059 SD1 deals in realistic fashion with quarantine enforcement by placing an emphasis on documentation of best pest management practices by producers and shippers prior to transportation of goods. This program should allow more efficient allocation of resources for inspections, while decreasing the overall threat of spread of pests and diseases from the quarantined area.



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February 27, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1059 SD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
Room 211
10:05 AM

Aloha Chair Keith-Agaran, Chair Tokuda, and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,832 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.

Hawaii Farm Bureau **supports the intent of SB1059 and offers the following comments.**

The recent discovery of the coffee berry borer on Oahu provides ample evidence that quarantine and its' regulatory processes along with interisland inspection transportation procedures need to be reviewed.

We agree with clarification of inspection procedures and the designation of quarantine areas to isolate infested areas. However, the recent movement of the coffee berry borer while infested areas were under quarantine begs the question of the adequacy of current systems. We believe that an evaluation of the adequacy of current procedures needs to be implemented along with corrective actions to deficiencies.

This measure also authorizes the implementation of compliance agreements to allow the transport of quarantined material outside of the quarantine zones with appropriate treatment. Terms of the compliance agreement require knowledge of the behavior of the invasive species whether it be a bug or pathogen. This requires adequate funding of programs that develop these procedures. To be successful, this program will also require sufficient regulatory oversight to ensure compliance to the terms of the agreement. We are unsure whether appropriate funding of these measures are in place.

We therefore, support the intent of this measure but have the aforementioned concerns. Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this important matter.



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

To: Senate Committee JDL/WAM

RE: Support for SB1059

Hearing Friday, February 27, 2015, 10:05 am

Aloha,

I am writing to express our support for SB1059, which will strengthen biosecurity within the islands. It is well known that the most effective and least costly stage of invasive species management is prevention. Once species become established, there is a very narrow window of time in which there may be a possibility of eradication. Species which are not able to be eradicated or for which we miss that window of time are relegated to containment and control, which are long-term endeavors requiring an intensive amount of management to protect our environment, our health, and our economy.

We support the Hawaii Department of Agriculture as our first line of prevention. These inspectors need the authority to act upon threats of invasion without delay, including the authority to prevent the movement of materials that present a risk between the islands. Last year, over 400 new species were prevented from entering Hawaii due to the hard work of inspectors. The importance of this role cannot be overstated.

For species that do become established and are in the early stages of invasion, a quarantine is critical if we are to have a chance of eradicating the pest. We support the authority of the Department to establish quarantines that limit the movement of materials interisland when it is determined to be necessary to prevent the spread of pests.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. If you need further information, do not hesitate to contact me.

Springer Kaye
Manager

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Intent of S.B. 1059 SD1 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Judiciary & Labor
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Friday, February 27, 2015, 10:05AM, Room 211

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.

The Nature Conservancy supports the intent of S.B. 1059 SD1. In particular, we note our support for the provisions in the bill that:

- Give the Department of Agriculture clear authority to inspect the variety of pathways that can carry pests (e.g., cars, household goods, etc.) and not just agricultural products; and
- Authorize quarantine areas but also provide for inspection certificates and compliance agreements that would allow movement of local products with agreed upon pest management and treatment protocols.

We appreciate that there may be some concerns within the agriculture industry in regards to the quarantine, penalty or other provisions of the bill. We hope that the Department of Agriculture and the industry can continue to work together to address these issues and allow this measure to move forward.

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. 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. If agreement on the provisions of this bill can be reached, we think it is an important and useful addition to the HDOA's multi-faceted Biosecurity Program.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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SB1059

Submitted on: 2/25/2015

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 27, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Breene	Waihuena Farm	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for supporting increased funding for the prevention of invasive species in Hawaii. Mahalo

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SB1059

Submitted on: 2/24/2015

Testimony for JDL/WAM on Feb 27, 2015 10:05AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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