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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

February 26, 2015
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

SENATE BILL NO. 1062 SD 1
RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Chairperson Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No.1062 SD 1. This bill moves the statutory authority for the Biosecurity Program, without language changes, from Chapter 150A and places it in Chapter 141. The department supports this bill.

Chapter 150A is titled "Plant and Non-domestic Animal Quarantine and Microorganism Import" and are the authorities for the laws that are administered by the department through the Plant Quarantine Branch. Currently, the language for the Biosecurity Program is in chapter 150A which limits the authorities for this program to the Plant Quarantine Branch. The department has multiple programs in other branches and divisions that address the issue of biosecurity. For example, the Livestock Disease Control Branch, Plant Pest Control Branch, Pesticides Branch, and Market Development Branch. The approach to biosecurity should be a collaborative and integrated approach among all entities within the department whose programs address and impact biosecurity. These proposed changes will place the authorities with the department's general statutes (Chapter 141 titled "Department of Agriculture") giving it department-wide responsibilities and not have it restricted to a single branch within the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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 Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Thursday, February 26, 2015
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1062, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM**

Senate Bill 1062, Senate Draft 1 proposes to remove statutory language describing the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) biosecurity program from Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A and instead place it in a new Part of HRS Chapter 141, broadening the scope of the biosecurity program from being within the Plant Quarantine Branch to becoming a department-wide initiative. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Administration measure.**

The Department recognizes that biosecurity includes pre-border, border, and post-border actions to both minimize the introduction of invasive species into the State and to control incipient populations. Relocating the statutory mandates of the biosecurity program from HRS Chapter 150A (which generally refers to the Plant Quarantine Branch within the Plant Industry Division of the HDOA) to HRS Chapter 141 (which describes the general duties of the entire HDOA) reflects the broad range of activities associated with the biosecurity program.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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February 26, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON SB 1062, SD1
RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Room 211
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Kouchi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBF 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 supports SB 1062, SD1, which improves the effectiveness of Hawaii biosecurity program by establishing the program as a function of the whole Department of Agriculture.

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.

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 support SB 1062, SD1.**

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 1062 SD1 Relating to the Biosecurity Program
Senate Committee on Ways & Means
Thursday, February 26, 2015, 9:00AM, 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 S.B. 1062 SD1 and its provisions to establish the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture's Biosecurity Program in statute.

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. Indeed, the colonization rate of introduced insects and mites in Hawai'i has been estimated at 500 times the rate of the continental United States.

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, agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols, and support local growers to produce import substitutes. This bill helps to formalize the HDOA's Biosecurity Program by making it a part of the department's authorizing statute.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

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