

SB 2271

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

February 3, 2016
2:45 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

**SENATE BILL NO. 2271
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2271. This bill appropriates general funds to 1) research methods to prevent and treat rapid ohia death and 2) control and contain damage caused by rapid ohia death.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is known to have infested at least 15,000 acres on the Big Island and continues to spread throughout that island and has not been found on other islands. It has left a devastating impact to the forests killing 50-90% of the trees in infested areas. The Department of Agriculture (HDOA) established a quarantine on August 25, 2015 to prevent its spread from the Big Island to the uninfested islands. This is under our authority which enables us to create an interim rule to govern the transport of flora and fauna into and within the State to protect agriculture and the environment.

ROD is a serious disease of Hawaii's ohia forests and the loss of these trees would have a devastating impact on our forest lands and natural resources. The purpose of this bill is to fund research for the treatment and prevention of ROD and control and contain damage caused by ROD. It is the department's view that it would be more advantageous to have these funds go to the Department of Land and Natural Resources in their Forestry and Wildlife Division which, unlike HDOA, have the mandate and authorities to carry out the purpose of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.



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 Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2016
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2271
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

Senate Bill 2271 proposes to require the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of Rapid Ohia Death and appropriates \$200,000 to DOA for research and control/containment. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request or any existing funding to the Department's programs.**

The recent spread of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) on Hawaii Island threatens the state's most important forest species and requires urgent action. Recent surveys conducted by the Department preliminarily found 34,000 acres of ohia forest affected by this disease, which is more than double the area mapped in 2014. The Department is working closely with DOA, USDA Forest Service and Agriculture Research Service, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture, and others to understand ROD and mitigate its spread where possible. Due to the lack of knowledge about this disease, many questions need to be answered before effectively managing the outbreak, as well as providing information or suggestions to the public.

This bill designates funding for 1) research for prevention and treatment; and 2) control and containment. We do not currently have treatments available to contain outbreaks in the forest, and funds are needed for researchers to develop such treatments. The Department supports funding research through DOA, but other activities might be more appropriately funded through different agencies. For example, control and containment activities, if research leads to effective techniques, would be more effectively handled by the Department and other land management agencies.

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

While the appropriation (\$200,000) in this bill is not sufficient to cover the entire scope of planned research and work, it would help sustain efforts already underway by state, federal, and private organizations. Priorities identified by the partner agencies include research, planning, survey/monitoring, and coordinated outreach.

Despite a lack of full understanding about this disease, all of the activities mentioned are vital to an effective response; therefore funding needs will be ongoing. The Department will continue to work closely with DOA and other partners to share knowledge and coordinate actions so resources are used efficiently.



The Senate
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
February 3, 2016
2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SB 2271

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in strong support of SB 2271, Relating to Environmental Protection.**

As this Committee is aware, Rapid ‘Ōhi‘a Death is a new fungal disease that was recently detected on Hawai‘i island and is killing ‘ōhi‘a at an alarming rate. ‘Ōhi‘a is Hawaii's most important and widespread forest tree and is central to watersheds, serves as habitat for many native species, and has tremendous cultural importance. Research shows that once the microscopic fungal disease enters ‘ōhi‘a trees, it can take a few weeks or even months where the tree shows no symptoms, but all at once, the tree dies. It is not yet known all of the ways that the fungal pathogen can be spread, although it can spread through infected soil (in the lab, 40% percent of seedlings succumbed within 6 months of infecting the soil with the disease). The fungal pathogen has also been found in wood from an ‘ōhi‘a tree that had died from the disease a year prior. The pathogen was still alive and capable of spreading with the movement of the wood. There is also some evidence that ‘ōhi‘a roots growing into each other, streams, and even feral cattle can carry and spread the pathogen from tree to tree.

The strain of this pathogen affecting ‘ōhi‘a is new to science--it has not been documented or studied anywhere else. Therefore, researchers are racing to learn as much as possible about its biology, all of the ways that the pathogen can spread, and to identify and test quarantine methods to detect and kill the pathogen in small amounts of soil (such as potted plants shipped from Big Island nurseries) and ‘ōhi‘a wood to protect neighbor islands from these known pathways for spread. However, at this rate of spread and with the tens of thousands of acres considered infected, there are virtually no options for landscape-scale protection of ‘ōhi‘a trees in natural areas on the Big Island. Faced with this sobering information, researchers are also looking at management actions that can and should be taken to mitigate impacts.

We should note that plant diseases such as these are extremely difficult to successfully address. For example, two well-documented accounts of widespread iconic U.S. tree species being wiped out by plant diseases include the disappearance of American chestnuts from an introduced fungal disease in the early 1900's (nearly 4 billion trees were killed and only a handful of trees remain in the wild, even today), and the 2003 discovery of an introduced beetle which is spreading a new fungal disease that is killing red bay/laurel in the south eastern U.S. The disease is on track to drive two species of red bay trees in the south eastern U.S. to

extinction, and also impact the avocado industry. These tragedies and their impacts are ongoing, and we in Hawai‘i need to shift our emergency-response framework and mind-set to the idea that this disease is not going away, and that we must find ways to mitigate the impacts over the long term. Mahalo for your consideration.

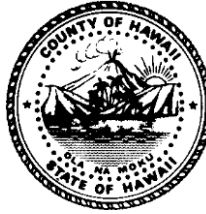
Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting S.B. 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports S.B. 2271 which would provide funding to research questions surrounding the *Ceratocystis* pathogen that causes Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. We are grateful to the Legislature for recognizing the seriousness of this situation and acting quickly to address it. OISC is currently assisting with outreach and early detection on O'ahu for this disease. There are so many questions around this disease and this bill would support research to answer them. We would ask however, that this funding be additive and not in place of regular invasive species funding so that if we are able to contain this disease, we will not have to play catch up with invasive species projects that we had to drop.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



Phone: (808) 323-4280
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: karen.eoff@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 29, 2016

Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture Email: WLAtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair Email: sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair Email: sennishihara@capitol.hawaii.gov
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Conference Room 224
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony In Support of SB2271; Relating to Environmental Protection
 Hearing Date: February 3, 2016 at 2:45 p.m., Conference Room 224

Dear Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, our support for the above referenced bill is expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

The Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Disease is destroying our native forest and landscape on Hawai'i Island. The appropriation of funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid 'Ōhi'a death disease is a necessary step to combat this malady, and stop it from spreading.

I strongly urge enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona



Kaua`i Watershed Alliance

Ben A. Dyre Limited Family Partnership, Department of Hawaiian Homelands, Department of Water County of Kaua'i, DLNR – Division of Forestry and Wildlife & Land Management Division, Grove Farm Company, Inc., Jurassic Kahili Ranch, Kamehameha Schools, Kaua'i Ranch LLC, Lihu'e Land Company, McBryde Sugar Company, Ltd., National Tropical Botanical Garden, Princeville Development, LLC

*"The Mission
of the Kaua`i
Watershed
Alliance is to
PROTECT,
PRESERVE
and MANAGE
our valuable
watershed
resources
for the
benefit of our
residents,
communities
and all future
generations
through the
concerted
efforts of its
members."*

Supporting S.B. 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance strongly supports SB 2271 which is to make an appropriation for research and mitigation efforts to address rapid ohia death disease in the State.

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. Its members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

Rapid ohia death disease is currently a serious threat to thousands of acres of native forest on the island of Hawaii and may spread to other islands. The ohia provides structure to our forests that support other species both common and rare within native watershed areas.

Thank you for your support and the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Mahalo!



West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership

January 31st, 2016

Testimony Supporting S.B. 2271
Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

West Maui Mountains
Watershed Partnership
P.O. Box 13240
Lahaina, Hawai'i
96761
Phone (808) 661-6600
Fax: (808) 661-6604

Watershed Partners

County of Maui
Dept. of Land &
Natural Resources
General Finance
Group, Inc.
Ka'anapali Land
Company, LLC
Kahoma Land, LLC
Kamehameha Schools
Makila Land Co., LLC
Maui County
Department of Water
Supply
Maui Land &
Pineapple
Company Inc
Wailuku Water Co.
LLC
The Nature
Conservancy

Aloha Legislators,

The West Maui Mountains Watershed Partnership **Supports S.B.2271** which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to **the rapid ohia death disease** and requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature. Such funding should be in addition to other funding appropriated for watershed and invasive species protection support from the State.

The rate of spread on the Big Island is alarming and is estimated to have spread from 15,000 acres in 2014 to 34,000 acres in 2015. Ohia forests dominate approximately 865,000 acres in Hawaii and are a keystone species providing habitat for culturally important and unique species found nowhere else on earth. Furthermore, Ohia is the primary species comprising our watersheds and their loss would result in reduced capacity of forest lands to gather, filter and slowly release water into our streams and aquifers.

Ohia tree canopies are comprised of moss covered limbs and leaves that reach into the moist trade winds. The moisture rich air condenses on these surfaces and contribute as much as 30% more water through cloud drip above direct precipitation from rain alone. These trees also shade the ground from evaporation on clear days and uses less water than some of our worst invasive species to grow. Loss of ohia forests could also expose fragile forest floors to direct rains, leading elevated rates of erosion and greater rates of sediment in our streams and reefs.

It is vital that we understand the fungus that causes Rapid Ohia Death in the hope that we can contain its spread to other islands and reduce damage statewide. The potential cost of allowing this species to spread could be extremely detrimental to Hawaii's natural environment and sustainability.

Thoughtfully submitted with broad partner support and one abstention.



Princeville Utilities Company, Inc.

February 2, 2016

Supporting S.B. 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2015, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance strongly supports *SB 2271* which is to make an appropriation for research and mitigation efforts to address rapid ohia death disease in the State.

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. Its members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

Kauai's Forests, much like native forest the other islands, are dependent upon the Ohia as an anchor species that helps create a healthy ecosystem for the benefit many of Hawaii's endemic forest plants both common and rare!

Thank you for support and the opportunity to provide supportive testimony.

Mahalo

Ian Kagimoto, PE
Manager



Conservation Council
for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Hearing: Wednesday, February 3, 2016 2:45 pm
Conference Room 224

In Support of SB 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2271, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State. Requires the Department to submit a report to the Legislature and makes an appropriation. However, we urge you to increase the appropriation of \$200,000 to an amount that is needed for research and protection of our watersheds.

'Ohi'a lehua is a dominant forest tree in our watersheds and habitat for rare and endangered species. Rapid 'ohi 'a death/wilt is a major threat to our native forests and watersheds, but it is not the only threat. Even if we are able to control or slow ROD, our native forests and watersheds will continue to decline as a result of additional threats, including introduced feral and game mammals (pigs, goats, sheep, and deer), invasive plants (such as strawberry guava, miconia, and others), plant pests, and diseases. Water and watersheds are important.

Our native forests are worth way more than \$200,000. Please do a better job of protecting our public lands and trust resources for future generations. Provide more funding for watershed protection and invasive species control. Stop nickel and diming important land conservation programs under the Department of Land and Natural Resources and Department of Agriculture.

Please support SB 2271 and appropriate more funding.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marjorie Ziegler'.

Marjorie Ziegler

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 2:45PM, Room 224

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.

The Nature Conservancy supports S.B. 2271. We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) and the acute circumstances on Hawai'i island with this disease and other pests of the environment, agriculture, and human health and well-being. We support a strong and coordinated response to ROD that is threatening the dominant native tree species in the Hawaiian forest—a tree that is central to the forests' ecological, cultural and watershed values statewide.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death will be additive and not prevent the Legislature, the Administration and partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to the full range of pest issues across the islands. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that the Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council—or the proposed Hawai'i Invasive Species Authority ([SB2799/HB2270](#))—is the appropriate multi-agency venue for this broader effort. This approach necessarily results in prioritization based on a variety of issues including human health, safety and well-being, economic harm, and the threat to the health and function of the environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Paul D. Alston Christopher J. Benjamin Anne S. Carter Richard A. Cooke III Thomas M. Gottlieb James J.C. Haynes III
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Jean E. Rolles Scott C. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith Peter K. Tomozawa James Wei

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: lost_in_autumn@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 12:01:32 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Baird	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to study Rapid Ohia Death Disease. This beautiful and majestic tree is a cornerstone of our native ecosystem. Additionally, it is critical to the survival of so many of our endangered species, from beloved native birds to fascinating insects. We must ensure the survival of Ohia to ensure the survival of our forests. The alarming and rapid spread of this disease across Hawaii Island is very scary to me: we must understand and control this pathogen before the entire island -- or entire island chain -- is devastated. I urge you to act quickly to approve this bill so that we can preserve our irreplaceable natural heritage. Sincerely, Allison Baird Honolulu

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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From: [Amanda Candens](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:35:48 PM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection
Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Aloha e Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid 'Ohi'a Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawai'i's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawai'i's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iakaikapoliopole, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and in veneration to the above referenced deities. It is frequently referenced in sacred Hawaiian narratives and veneration chants honoring these significant deities within the Hawaiian ethos.

Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but **would significantly impede Native Hawaiian religious practices** as well. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Na'u me ke aloha,
na Amanda Candens

--

Amanda Candens
Graduate Assistant
Department of Religion
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
www.hawaii.edu/religion

From: [Andrea Buckman](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 12:15:12 PM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is a foundational component of Hawaii’s native forests, providing significant cultural and ecological resources. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would tremendously impair the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water, and would create opportunity for invasive species to colonize ‘ohi‘a’s former footprint.

Many native species depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be detrimental to our island ecosystems and would also be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Andrea Buckman

Andrea Buckman
Program Manager
Leeward Haleakala Watershed Restoration Partnership
3620 Baldwin Ave., Suite 202/203, Makawao HI 96768
www.lhwrp.org
808.573.8989 office
808.281.6836 cell

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: anniemoriyasu@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:37:30 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annie Moriyasu	Individual	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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Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I am Dr. Arthur Medeiros, formerly federal biologist on Maui for over three decades, first with the research division for Haleakala National Park, then the Pacific Island Ecosystem Research Center, U.S. Geological Survey. In 2015, I retired from Federal Service.

Though clearly inadequate as a governmental response to loss of its watersheds, I still fully support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

Strict quarantine and directed research are desperately needed now to front load any solutions to loss or permanent degradation of all Hawaiian watersheds less we regret the time that we did not do more at what turned out to be a monumental turning for the economic, natural and cultural world of Hawai'i.

Respectfully, Dr. Art Medeiros

From: [Audrey Kamii](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 7:26:35 AM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make lei – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua lei?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: johnson.aulani@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 12:02:42 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aulani Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, Thank you for your time and energy reading this testimony! I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. In Portland, OR, we have had the opportunity to perform Early Detection Rapid Response on many invasive species, including disease and blight, and I know first hand the cost of not dedicating resources to combat the destructive qualities of them. \$200,000 does not seem like a lot to ask for initial steps towards combating Ceratosystis wilt, especially when you consider the bevy of knowledge that is obtained with such an effort in protecting such an important species (Metrosideros polymorpha". 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Aulani Johnson Botanic Technician I Clty of Portland, OR 808-726-9939

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: bryan@bryanberkowitz.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:07:11 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryan Berkowitz	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We must save our native forests!

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From: [C.M.](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:34:28 PM

February 1, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB2271

Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

C. Nakahara

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: charles.bischoff@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:29:07 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charles Bischoff	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Charles Bischoff

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: makanaleij@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:23:49 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsey Jay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival with lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Chelsey

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From: [christine johnson](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:00:05 PM

February 1, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB2271

Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi’a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi’a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai’i: Ku, Pele, Hi’iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki’i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Your name

Christine Johnson

Makaha, Hawaii

From: [Clyde Tamaru](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:53:50 AM

Testimony in Support of SB2271

Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

My name is Clyde Tamaru, Ph.D., and am recently retired from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. I am providing testimony on behalf of myself and do not represent the University of Hawaii. However, while at UH I was an extension specialist Rank S5 with a doctorate from the University of Tokyo. I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. The reasons for my support are as follows:

Our State is in trouble. Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. For example:

- 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.
- Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..
- 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Clyde S. Tamaru

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: info@courtneybruch.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:51:03 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney Bruch	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: crystalkpaul@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:12:32 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Kia Paul	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Honorable Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Nishihara, I humbly ask that you please pass this bill to fund the research of this disease of our beloved `ohia. `Ohia is a significant part of our culture. We must do our best to help it survive. Mahalo, Crystal Kia-Paul

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From: [Lewis, Dan](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Support of appropriation to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:05:11 PM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara --

I'm a native of the Big Island, now living on the mainland. I work for one of the world's great cultural institutions, and am deeply committed to environmental matters. I strongly support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease, also known as Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Daniel Lewis

=====
Daniel Lewis, Ph.D.
Dibner Senior Curator, History of Science & Technology
The Huntington Library, Art Collections & Botanical Gardens
1151 Oxford Road
San Marino, CA 91108
626-405-2206

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dforman@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:31:04 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Daniel Forman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I support funding to research how to stop rapid Ohia death.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: dejinhi@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:53:54 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David E Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, David E Johnson

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From: [Mike K](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: "Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:46:13 AM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Denise Bailey
HC2 Box 5623
Keaau, HI. 96749

From: [Edith Adkins](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:54:54 AM

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi’a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi’a is sacred to several deities of Hawai’i: Ku, Pele, Hi’iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki’i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

--

Edith Adkins

From: [e kraftsow](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:03:34 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Ellen Kraftsow

From: [florence fines](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attention: Mike Gabbard, I support SB22271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:52:05 PM

February 1, 2016

Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Attention:
Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

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‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

/s/ Florencia L. Fines

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kekodenning@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:41:58 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Genevieve Denning	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Genevieve K.Denning

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From: [Heraldo Farrington](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 5:46:10 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to support research of Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make lei – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua lei?

Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but it would be a huge cultural loss to all of Hawai'i Neii and its people. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly threat to our beloved 'ohi'a.

Sincerely,

Heraldo M. Farrington

Heraldo Farrington
Huaka'i Consulting
PO Box 952
Volcano, HI 96785
Cell: 808.756.6978

"Helping good people do great work, safely."

LinkedIn Public Profile:
<http://www.linkedin.com/pub/heraldo-farrington/32/776/b42>

From: [Holle Chernis](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: support appropriation of \$200,000, Ceratocystis Wilt
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 4:23:49 PM

February 1, 2016

Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi’a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

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Not only would the loss of ‘ohi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Holle Chernis

Noho Nani Mai

**Historic & Hula
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Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

Supporting S.B. 2271 Relating to Environmental Protection

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Wednesday, February 3, 2016, 2:45PM, Room 224

To Whom It May Concern:

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance strongly supports *SB 2271* which is to make an appropriation for research and mitigation efforts to address rapid ohia death disease in the State.

The Kaua'i Watershed Alliance (KWA) has been actively managing portions of the mauka watershed on Kaua'i since 2003. Its members which include DLNR (DOFAW and Land Management Div.) make up a diverse group of public and private entities who own land within the mountainous watershed and understand the importance of protecting and preserving the forests that capture the water - our most precious resource.

The Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership has been a part of the Kauai Watershed Association (KWA) since its formation in 2003. As a landowner on Kauai, it is an honor to be a part of such an upstanding group, which has helped to protect and conserve our most vital assets- water, and our unique native plants and animal species. Please help continue this work through dedicated funding!

Kauai's Forests, much like native forest the other islands, are dependent upon the Ohia as an anchor species that helps create a healthy ecosystem for the benefit many of Hawaii's endemic forest plants both common and rare!

Thanks so much for the opportunity to voice our support for this bill.

Sincerely,

Holly Dyre
General Partner
Ben Dyre Family Limited Partnership

From: [Irene Newhouse](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard - support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 12:08:38 PM

I support appropriating funds to study rapid ohia death. If this becomes a serious problem, as it looks as if it will, unless something's done, it will have devastating effect on the remaining native forests of this state, and on the unique birds that depend on them. It will be like Dutch elm disease in the US northeast, which I'm old enough to remember, or chestnut blight, which I am not. The landscape's been irreversibly changed by these disasters.

Irene Newhouse
129 Walua Place
Kihei HI 96752

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture**

Wednesday, February 3, 2016; 2:45 pm

By

J. Kenneth Grace

SB 2271 RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of SB 2271, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for research and mitigation efforts relating to the rapid ohia death disease in the State.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace. I am a resident of Kaneohe, and employed as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am providing personal testimony on SB 2137.

Rapid ohia death, caused by a fungal pathogen first identified in 2014, has spread extremely rapidly on the Big Island, from 15,000 acres of ohia forest infected by the disease in 2014, to 34,000 in 2016. Ohia makes up half the acreage, and half the woody biomass, of all the forests in Hawai'i. Loss of ohia across the state will severely impact our endangered forest birds that depend on the trees for nesting sites, and will intensify invasion of the forest by invasive plant species such as strawberry guava that use more water than ohia, with negative impacts on the watershed. From a cultural standpoint, it is difficult to imagine Hawai'i without ohia and the lehua flowers. Further, forests of dead trees will greatly damage tourism, particularly on the Big Island, and greatly increase fire hazards.

The nursery industry in Hawaii has also been impacted by rapid ohia death, since it has been necessary to impose a quarantine on soil movement from the Big Island to prevent possible spread of the disease.

Researchers from state and federal agencies and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) are working to address the spread and management of this severe plant disease, but their efforts are limited by resources and by the absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease. SB 2271 would appropriate the funds necessary to increase these research and management efforts before the disease devastates Big Island forests, and spreads across the state.

I appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2271.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: james.b.friday@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2016 12:13:08 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am writing to testify in favor of Senate Bill 2271 appropriating \$200,000 to develop ways to control Rapid Ohia Death. I am the extension specialist in forestry with the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service, although this testimony is my personal opinion and not the University's. I have been working on Rapid Ohia Death since 2013 and have seen the devastation it is causing to the Big Island's forests. For someone who loves the native forest, such as myself, it is heartbreaking to see thousands of acres of dead trees spreading across the landscape. Since we identified the pathogen in 2014, we have assembled team of pathologists, entomologists, ecologists, and foresters to understand the disease, how it moves, and how we can manage it to protect our remaining forests on Hawaii Island and stop the movement of the fungus to other island. An appropriation of \$200,000 would go long way to helping sustain these efforts and be much appreciated. Mahalo for your care for our forests and our islands.

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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From: [Jeanne Duberstein](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: ohia trees
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 2:26:44 PM

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Jeanne and Michael Duberstein, 34 Iliwai Loop, Kihei, HI 96753

From: [Jeff Stallman](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:42:41 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

The possibilities of this disease are terrifying: hundreds of thousands of acres of dead Ohia trees. Ohia is one of the iconic trees of Hawai'i; being one of the first to colonize lava flows and remaining as a dominant or co-dominant tree in the oldest of Hawaiian forests.

The death of slow-growing Ohia means the degradation of habitat for many other Hawaiian plants and animals, and additional opportunities for invasive species.

We cannot work to stop the spread of the disease without science-based strategies to fight the disease. Please appropriate these funds so we can do our best to help Hawai'i's forests. It may already be too late, but if we don't try, it is a disgrace.

Sincerely,

Jeff Stallman

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: jokimoto@stanfordalumni.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 12:40:04 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jolyn Rosa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I am writing to SUPPORT the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease (Ceratocystis Wilt), and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. Particularly at this time of global climate change, we must protect Hawai'i's delicate ecosystem. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would devastate our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable such invasive species as albezia and eucalyptus to take over. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely and with thanks, Jolyn Rosa

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: kallygos@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Sunday, January 31, 2016 8:26:02 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kally	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please allocate this money for the Ohi'as, our watershed, native birds etc etc, erosion, climate, everything. Devastation follows deforestation. I cannot think of anything more important right now. Hawaii depends upon these forests. The Ohias are the lifeblood of my coffee farm. The OHIA Forest even provides Beauveria inoculum. Please allocate!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Kamu.akeo@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 5:43:02 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamuela Akeo	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. With Aloha, Kamuela Akeo

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February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai’i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Keith Y. Higaki

From: kilohanapa@gmail.com
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: ATTN: Mike Gabbard, I support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 6:28:00 AM

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Kilohana Roberts

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: salinasckl@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:48:22 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly crawford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Support SB2271. we need to save our native forest and watershed.

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From: [Laura Civitello](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 3:00:35 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would not only be very damaging to our upland ecosystems, but another blow to the native culture, as well.

I support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Laura Civitello

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: LaurieHo1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2217 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 2:50:22 PM

SB2217

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to submit written support to SB2217. We are beneficiaries of the East Kauai Water User's Cooperative (EKWUC) and grow breadfruit trees. We need this grassroots community-based organization to help us maintain our irrigation systems which were abandoned by Lihue Sugar Plantation. It is imperative that the State of Hawaii protect and preserve these elaborate water systems in perpetuity. WE ask that you support the EKWUC ~ what better way to do this? For farmers by farmers! Mahalo.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: leemarie_a@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:51:20 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
LeeMarie DePonte	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: direccion@elreysol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:45:53 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abby Barrios	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: [Leilehua Yuen](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:03:48 AM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Your name

From: [Marlene McClure](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:50:52 PM

February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Marlene and Cameron McClure

From: [Marybeth Fentriss](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Support of SB2271-Attn: Sen. Mike Gabbard
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 11:42:32 AM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Marybeth Fentriss

Sent from my iPad

From: melissa.chimera@gmail.com
To: [Mike Gabbard](#)
Subject: Mike Gabbard: Testimony in support of SB 2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:25:40 AM

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

D

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

Please appropriate \$200,000 to research ways to stop and mitigate

the spread of Rapid Ohia Death Disease. As a former national park ranger and Hawai'i conservationist of two decades, this is one of the most critical ecological battles of our time.

The loss of 'ohi'a trees, the prime constituent of Hawai'i's native forests—from sea level to 7,000 ft.—would be a huge blow to our watersheds. Our watersheds absorb and retain water. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a, from endangered forest birds to snails and insect communities. The species comprises the cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems. Its loss would mean replacement by invasive trees and the eventual wholesale destruction of the native upland forest.

In addition, it is culturally sacred. The wood was used to make kī, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. Can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

The loss of 'ohi'a trees be not only detrimental to our island ecosystems but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawai'i.

I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Melissa Chimera





Melissa Michelle Chimera
P.O. Box 1502
Makawao, Hawaii 1 96768 USA
www.melissachimera.com
c o n n e c t
 

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: nfroman@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 6:31:57 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Napua Froman	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Napua Froman

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February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

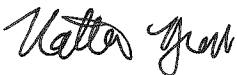
For the past 20 years I have been hiking throughout the Hawaiian Islands to photograph the native flora and fauna which I blog about at my website – HawaiianForest.Com. 'Ōhi'a trees are one of my favorite things to photograph. In 2013 I was appointed to the Natural Area Reserves System Commission.

'Ōhi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ōhi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

'Ōhi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival with lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of 'ōhi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,



Nathan Yuen

From: [Patricia Missler](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Ceratocystis Wilt
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:51:22 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

However, I also request that there be immediate action taken to protect our remaining 'Ohi'a population from extinction. Two very simple actions can be taken immediately.

- 1) Post signs (as was once done on the Big Island years ago, when there was a threat to the banana business with the bunchy top virus) that alert people that transporting any 'Ohi'a lumber, logs, by-products, flowers, or dirt that could be harboring any infectious virus is illegal and subject to a fine. Make it a very hefty fine for anyone, anyone, caught transporting across our island.
- 2) Post police within those boundaries to pull over any person hauling logs, etc., and have them immediately confiscated, destroyed, and the person slapped with hefty fine for the illegal transportation.

This is not something that is going to go away on its own. It must be stopped immediately before irreparable harm is done to our forests. The native forests of the Big Island not only give shelter to our native species, they also provide us with our watershed. To allow the trees to die is to put our water source in jeopardy.

Failure to take action to protect our natural resources I believe will lead to lawsuits in the future. It is our State's responsibility to act on this immediately.

'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment.

Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Patricia Missler

From: [M.P. Montgomery](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:57:29 PM

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Patti Montgomery
Kula, Maui

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: alohashellservice@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:11:26 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paul Hanada	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, Please support this bill. Mahalo

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brian@hfbf.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 3:19:35 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cabral	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ray@mycybershaman.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 9:03:31 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Raymond Mata	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony for SB2271. I've been a resident on the islands for over 15 years now. Our family started on Hawaii Island and spent three years living in Kaloko at 4200ft on the Kona slopes of Hualalai, surrounded by old groves of healthy Ohia trees. I have witnessed first hand what Ohia does for our forests. Covering over 1 million acres across the state, Ohia is a powerful ally in protecting and preserving our island ecosystems by back-boning our watersheds and by supporting other native plant and animal life both directly and indirectly. I can not imagine a Hawaii without Ohia, it would be devastating to the health and beauty that so many have grown up knowing. More recently my family relocated to Kauai and joined a hula halau where we learned of the cultural importance of this tree and its long standing role in the preservation of life and culture. I believe acceptance of this bill will begin the long and prosperous road to protecting and preserving one of life's greatest allies. \$200,000 is a humble beginning for such an important task. I ask that you consider the health and vitality of our shared island home and use your power to help protect Ohia from death. Endless rewards await! A'ohe hana nui ke alu i'a - no task is too great when done together by all.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: rebeccapike@mac.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:04:41 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebecca Pike	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, It is impossible that you are not yet aware of the disaster that is Rapid Ohia Death Disease. And impossible that anyone could stand by and not fight it. I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Rebecca Pike

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From: [Rebecca Riggins](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 8:06:24 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

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‘Ohi’a is sacred to several deities of Hawai’i: Ku, Pele, Hi’iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki’i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Riggins
rg@ryanriggins.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: moanaluaValley@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:45:00 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roddy Akau	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As state-recognized Kahu of Moanalua Valley, and as a practicing Kahuna Laau Lapaau, I recognize both the cultural and environmental importance of our ohia forests. I would therefore like to submit my support for state funds and efforts to combat rapid ohia death, and to prevent the spread to other islands. Mahalo, Roddy Kawehi Kamawaelualani Akau

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February 2, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection
Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments on SB2271.

My name is Sara Tekula, and I am a 40 year old, college educated, working mother. My husband and I have planted native trees in all 50 states (through our project called "Plant a Wish"), and thousands of native trees on our home island of Maui, and we are both active land stewardship/native habitat restoration practitioners living in Makawao.

I am writing to SUPPORT SB2271.

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ōhi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ōhi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ōhi’a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

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Not only would the loss of ‘ōhi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Mahalo piha,
Sara

From: [Scott Splean](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 2:37:01 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi‘a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi‘a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi‘a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi‘a is sacred to several deities of Hawai‘i: Ku, Pele, Hi‘iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki‘i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi‘a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Scott Laniakea Splean
Kihei, Maui

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: opihikaokid@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:03:26 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sean king	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: please help save Hawaii by saving the Ohia's from devlopment cutting them down from the Albezia trees choking out the them out and the rapid ohia death fungus ...if big islands ohia forests die all of Hawaii will change forever and not for the good

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From: [Shannon Wianecki](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, support SB2271 to save "ohia
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:42:59 AM

Aloha Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

Please release \$200,000 to research and stop the spread of Rapid Ohia Death. And if that amount is not enough, find more funds.

‘Ohi‘a is one of the first plants to colonize bare lava flows. A beautiful and strong pioneer, it begins the marvelous process of forest-building. Beneath its shade, native Hawaiian understory plants take root and thrive. Honeycreepers feed on the nectar of its iconic flowers. It grows from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation--a critical component of nearly every indigenous forest type.

Of the many numerous native Hawaiian proverbs refer to ‘ohi‘a, I offer you this one: *Ke uwe nei ka ‘ohi‘a o Kealakona*. The ‘ohi‘a wood of Kealakona weeps [for you].

Mahihelelima, a powerful Maui warrior, taunted the invading army from Hawai'i Island with this declaration. His fortress at Ka'uiki was fortified with ‘ohi‘a logs from Kealakona. Later the proverb came to mean, "We are prepared to defend ourselves and we are sorry for you if you try and fight us."

Let us announce to the world and to our communities that we are prepared to defend this majestic, essential tree. We will sacrifice convenience and comfort to save it.

With regard,
Shannon Wianecki

--

Shannon Wianecki
(808) 205-7273
www.shannonwianecki.com
@swianecki

From: [Sherwin Alop](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 4:53:48 PM

February 1, 2016
Testimony in Support of SB2271
Relating to Environmental Protection

Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,

I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

‘Ohi’a is the prime constituent of Hawaii’s native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of ‘ohi’a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii’s natural environment.

Many native animals depend on ‘ohi’a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

‘Ohi’a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai’i: Ku, Pele, Hi’iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki’i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis?

Not only would the loss of ‘ohi’a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Namaste,

Sherwin Alop BSN, RN, CCRN



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: shonvanzandt@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM*
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 11:33:36 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shon Van Zandt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: skrobello@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:04:30 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven K. Robello	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival with lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Steven Robello

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: susanonmaui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 10:29:12 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
susan kean	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincereley, Susan Kean

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: svickery@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:34:46 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Vickery	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Mahalo nui.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: Hautree77@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 8:25:15 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri L Skillman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. My doctoral dissertation was on the Merrie Monarch Festival so I write in full support of the Bill to stop rapid death of 'ohi'a trees. The 'ohi'a trees are essential to the hula tradition and an important part of the mo'olelo repertoire. Sincerely, Dr. Teri L. Skillman

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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: theede@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:28:01 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Teri Heede	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread.

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From: [Tim Bowden](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:59:57 AM

Aloha Mike -

I support SB2271 regarding funding for ROD mitigation.

Mahalo,

Tim Bowden

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: maoliinstitute@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 5:08:01 PM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Toni Auld Yardley	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I highly recommend you seek cultural consultation from the KANAKAOLE FOUNDATION.

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From: [Me Me](#)
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Subject: Attn: Mike Gabbard, I Support SB2271
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 7:30:06 PM

Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara,
I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems..

Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease.

Sincerely,
Vanassa Melendez

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: wadenokaioi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 1:43:48 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wade Holmes	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's native forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. Many native animals depend on 'ohi'a -- endangered forest birds feed on the nectar of its blossoms, snails graze on algae and fungi on its leaves, and insect communities live in its foliage, making it a cornerstone of upland Hawaiian ecosystems.. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival without lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Wade Holmes Ethnobotanist, UH-Manoa Graduate

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: ymakaha@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2271 on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM
Date: Monday, February 01, 2016 10:08:03 AM

SB2271

Submitted on: 2/1/2016

Testimony for WLA on Feb 3, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Yoshio Akaha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 1, 2016 Testimony in Support of SB2271 Relating to Environmental Protection Chair Mike Gabbard and Vice-Chair Clarence K. Nishihara Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture Dear Senators Gabbard and Nishihara, I support the appropriation of \$200,000 to research Rapid Ohia Death Disease or Ceratocystis Wilt, and to develop ways to stop and mitigate its spread. 'Ohi'a is the prime constituent of Hawaii's natives forests found in almost every ecological niche from sea level to 7,000 feet elevation. The loss of 'ohi'a trees would be a huge blow to the ability of our watersheds to absorb and retain water and would enable albezia, eucalyptus, strawberry guava, and other invasive species to take over – trees known to be harmful to Hawaii's natural environment. 'Ohi'a is sacred to several ancient deities of Hawai'i: Ku, Pele, Hi'iaka, and Laka. The wood was used to make ki'i, temple carvings, altars, and other ceremonial structures. The plant is used in traditional herbal medicine and to make leis – can you imagine the Merrie Monarch Festival with lehua leis? Not only would the loss of 'ohi'a trees be detrimental to our island ecosystem but would be a huge cultural loss to Hawaii. I wholeheartedly support the appropriation of funding to mitigate and stop this deadly disease. Sincerely, Yoshi Akaha

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