

SB 2801

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 Committees on
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
and
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Friday, February 12, 2016
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2801
RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM**

Senate Bill 2801 proposes to move statutory language describing the Hawaii Department of Agriculture's (HDOA) biosecurity program from Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A to a new Part of HRS Chapter 141, broadening the scope of the biosecurity program from being within the Plant Quarantine Branch to becoming a department-wide initiative. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this Administration measure.**

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

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

SUZANNE D. CASE
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LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND AND AGRICULTURE
AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

February 12, 2016
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**SENATE BILL NO. 2801
RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM**

Chairpersons Gabbard and Wakai and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2801. This bill moves the statutory authority for the Biosecurity Program, without language changes, from Chapter 150A and places it in Chapter 141. The department supports this administration bill.

Chapter 150A is titled "Plant and Non-domestic Animal Quarantine and Microorganism Import" and is the authorities for the laws that are administered by the department through the Plant Quarantine Branch. Currently, the language for the Biosecurity Program is in chapter 150A which limits the authorities for this program to the Plant Quarantine Branch.

The department has multiple programs in other branches and divisions that address the issue of biosecurity. For example, the Livestock Disease Control Branch, Plant Pest Control Branch, Pesticides Branch, and Market Development Branch. The approach to biosecurity should be a collaborative and integrated approach among all entities within the department whose programs address and impact biosecurity. These proposed changes will place the authorities within the department's general statutes (Chapter 141 titled "Department of Agriculture") giving it department-wide responsibilities and not have it restricted to a single branch within the department.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

2:00 PM, Friday, February 12, 2016
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

SENATE BILL 2801 RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM

Senate Bill 2801 proposes to move statutory language describing the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) biosecurity program from Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A to a new Part of HRS Chapter 141, broadening the scope of the biosecurity program from being within the Plant Quarantine Branch to becoming a department-wide initiative. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) supports this Administration measure.**

The HISC recognizes that biosecurity is a broad-spectrum issue that includes both the prevention of invasive species introductions as well as rapid response and biocontrol. Relocating the statutory mandates of the biosecurity program from HRS Chapter 150A (which generally refers to the Plant Quarantine Branch within the Plant Industry Division of the HDOA) to HRS Chapter 141 (which describes the general duties of the entire HDOA) reflects the broad range of activities associated with the biosecurity program.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting S.B. 2801 Relating to the Biosecurity Program
Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Friday, February 12, 2016, 2:00PM, Room 414

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. 2801 to establish the biosecurity program as the responsibility of the entire Department of Agriculture rather than just within the department's Plant Quarantine Branch.

Invasive weeds, insects, diseases, snakes, and other pests are one of the greatest threats to Hawaii's economy, agriculture, natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of its people. With favorable conditions and limited competition, non-native species arrive in the Hawaiian Islands to find an easy environment in which to thrive. The HDOA has developed a multi-faceted Biosecurity Program in an effort to enhance invasive species prevention at air and sea ports with more inspectors, enhanced inspection systems and technologies, improved inspection facilities, and agreements with importers and producers for improved sanitary protocols. However, an effective biosecurity program goes well beyond ports of entry and exit. Establishing a biosecurity program across the entire department can assist with coordination across the department's programs and with other agencies and stakeholders to better address a variety of issues including economic and agricultural risk, human health, safety and well-being, and the threat to the health and function of the natural environment.

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Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

Testimony for the Twenty Eighth Legislature, 2016
State of Hawaii

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COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12, 2016
2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 414
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

A bill for an act
SB2801 RELATING TO THE BIOSECURITY PROGRAM.

My name is Eric S. Tanouye and I am the President for the Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association. HFNA is a statewide umbrella organization with approximately 300 members. Our membership is made up with breeders, hybridizers, propagators, growers, shippers, wholesalers, retailers, educators, and the allied industry, which supports our efforts in agriculture.

We strongly OPPOSE SB2801. We have serious concern about the direction this bill would take us. A few years ago the Biosecurity program, under the previous Plant Quarantine Manager, was working collaboratively with the Legislature, was performing exceptionally well and was acknowledged nationally and internationally.

The current Department management has not kept the program to what it should be. Even with recent hires there are not enough inspectors, there has been a drop in staff, the current direction of the program has not been made clear, the interception of invasive species has dropped dramatically and important programs have stopped. We are forced to question how the current state of the program suggests that this bill would help to improve our Bio-security program. We believe it would be better for industry and agriculture to instead support SB2771.

The creation of biosecurity within the Department of Agriculture would dilute the intent of focusing biosecurity in the areas of prevention and rapid response, and reduction



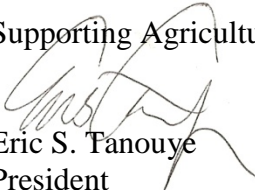
Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

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

The only way to expand the program would be to create a Biosecurity division with oversight on policies and direction from the industry and stakeholders, allowing the department and industry to work together, for what is best for Agriculture and Hawaii.

We as an Industry strongly **OPPOSE** this bill and ask you to instead support SB2771. If you have any questions at this time, I would be happy to discuss them and can be reached by phone at 808-959-3535 ext 22, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,



Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLA Testimony](#)
Cc: brandphillips@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2801 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM
Date: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:56:52 AM

SB2801

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reese Phillips	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Esteemed Committee Members, Invasive species are an important issue for Hawaii, affecting human health, the economy, and the natural environment. The most cost-effective way to address invasive species is to interdict them at the ports, preventing their establishment and spread, which are very expensive to manage. To prevent the establishment of invasive species in Hawaii it is critical to have a robust biosecurity system. Therefore, I urge you to support SB2801.

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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