SHAN S. TSUTSUI Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE 1428 South King Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512 Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 1, 2017 8:45 A.M. CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1004 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chairperson Creagan and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1004. This bill appropriates general funds to support pathology research on Rapid Ohia death (ROD) as detailed in the ROD Strategic Response Plan. The Department supports this measure provided that it does not impact the priorities submitted in the department's executive budget.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) is known to infest at least 50,000 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 nearly 100% 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 neighbor islands. This is under HDOA authority which enables the Department 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 to study the pathogen that causes ROD. This



research is critically needed in order to move forward with the control and mitigation of this disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





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 RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT ENGINEERING FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE HISTORIC PRESERVATION KAHOOLAWE ELAND RESERVE COMMISSION LAND STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of SUZANNE D. CASE Chairperson

Before the House Committee on AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:45 AM State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of HOUSE BILL 1004 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

House Bill 1004 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for implementation of the Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan. 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 the disease causing Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) on Hawaii Island threatens the State's most important tree and requires urgent action. Surveys conducted by the Department on Hawaii Island in 2016 estimated that 50,000 acres of ohia forest are affected by this disease. To date, surveys have not detected the disease on other islands. The Department is working closely with the HDOA, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service and Agriculture Research Service, University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, and others to understand ROD and mitigate its spread where possible. Due to the lack of knowledge about the disease, many questions urgently need to be answered to effectively manage the outbreak and inform the public.

Funds appropriated by the Legislature for implementing the ROD Strategic Response Plan will support activities prioritized and described in the plan. Funding support would ensure that research, surveys, and public outreach are adequately funded, and that when detections on new islands occur, a response is made with the best available information. Additionally, this appropriation will be used to leverage federal and private funds. The Department is willing to assist the HDOA as needed in managing the appropriation.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Agriculture Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 8:45 am By Rachel Novotny, Interim Dean And J. Kenneth Grace, Associate Dean College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1004 - RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in <u>support</u> of HB 1004, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for implementation of the Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan.

Rapid Ohia Death (ROD), is caused by two closely related fungal pathogens within the genus *Ceratocystis*. The disease was 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 50,000 acres in late 2016. Ohia is the dominant tree in at least 80% of Hawai'i's native forests, and makes up half the acreage, and half the woody biomass, of all the forests in Hawai'i. Loss of ohia across the state will severally 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 Hawai'i 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 are working to address the spread and management of this severe plant disease, and distributed the interagency Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan in November 2016. Their efforts are limited by resources and by the absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease. HB 1004 would appropriate the funds necessary to begin implementation of the ROD Strategic Response Plan and ramp up research and management efforts before this disease devastates Big Island forests, and spreads across the state.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1004.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 11:06 AM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Henry Curtis	Life of the Land	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 11:01 AM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan L.K. Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 11:01 AM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	dale@hicattle.org
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 2:24 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

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From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 1:21 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	alan@prloffice.com
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Gottlieb	Ponoholo Ranch Limited	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 12:40 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	gmb4@hawaii.edu
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.



TIM VANDEVEER Chair, MARIE STRAZAR Vice Chair

MARGARET WILLE SEAN SMITH Legislative Committee Co-Chairs

January 30, 2017

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair Representative Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair House Committee on Agriculture HB1004 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH Wednesday, February 1st, 2017 8:45 pm State Capitol, Conference Room 312

Submitted on Behalf of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

The Democratic Party of Hawaii strongly supports HB1004 "Relating to Rapid Ohia Death" to address this threat to our Ohia forests. Addressing invasive species problems, including with regard to the spread of Rapid Ohia Death, is one of the Democratic Party's priorities for the 2017 Legislative Session.

Ohia are important to the economic, cultural, and environmental wellbeing of our State. On the southern portion of the Island of Hawaii there are now already some 50,000 acres of Ohia forest devastated by this invasive species disease.

Please include actions to prevent the spread of this disease to areas that are not yet affected on the Island of Hawaii – including the northern portion of the Island–the Kohala Mountain Ohia Forest - whether by way of a quarantine of Ohia on the southern half of Hawaii Island, signage, public awareness education, or otherwise.

TESTIMONY OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII HB1004 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH Page 2

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ *Tim Vandeveer* (tim@hawaiidemocrats.org) Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

/s/ Marie (Dolly) Strazar (hilomds@gmail.com) Vice Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawaiʻi

/s/ Margaret Wille(margaretwille@mac.com)/s/ Sean Smith(simashang@yahoo.com)Legislative Committee Co-chairs

Headquarters 627 South Street P.O. Box 2041 Honolulu Hawaii 96805 808-596-2980



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759 Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921 e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 1, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1004 RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

> Room 312 8:45 AM

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB strongly supports HB 1004, which apppropriates funds for implementation of the Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan.

Watersheds are the lifeblood of our communities. It is important not just to agriculture but to our social and environmental health. The spread of rapid ohia death has been alarming and its' management before spreading to other islands is very critical. Many of the other islands depend on surface water for their drinking and irrigation needs. Loss of trees will severely impact watersheds.

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

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent:	Monday, January 30, 2017 9:58 PM
То:	AGRtestimony
Cc:	ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM

Submitted on: 1/30/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a born and raised Mauian, business owner, taxpayer, nature appreciator, and water drinker I strongly support giving funding towards preventing Rapid Ohia Death with HB1004. We need to better understand ROD and do everything in our power to stop its spread. Metrosideros polymorpha is an essential species in our watersheds and it'd be devastating to our ecology and water cycle if these trees all died throughout Hawaii... Considering the weight of what's at risk, please do all in your power to fund understanding and containment of this horrible blight. Thank you for considering my testimony and supporting HB1004 Arianna Feinberg

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.





COORDINATING GROUP ON ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The House of Representatives Committee on Agriculture February 1, 2017 8:45 a.m., Conference Room 312 State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 1004

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is in support of HB 1004, *Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death.* The aim of this measure is to provide funding to implement the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) Strategic Response Plan, including funding for research, response, control, and outreach personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Just two months ago, the ROD Strategic Response Plan was presented to the public and decision makers. Crafting the plan was an effort that involved more than 40 people from a variety of different agencies and organizations. Even with the plan, one of the questions that continues to arise is about the budget need. The lead agencies such as USDA ARS, USDA Forest Service, UH CTAHR, DLNR, and HDOA have provided financial and in-kind support for this effort, and many also have current funding requests, while grants received from private foundations have also been crucial to work to-date. Therefore, this plan assumes that whatever was previously provided by agencies will largely remain the same, or may increase slightly as core functions or needs are added to base operating budgets.

Also, note that the plan does not include the cost of interisland quarantine work by HDOA, although it references the need to support the Interagency Biosecurity Plan. In particular, conducting risk assessments, gaining capacity and technology to address plant pathogens, and programs that increase our capacity to do interisland prevention work, are high priorities as related to ROD.

ROD is one of the most challenging and heartbreaking issues that we have worked on. The need for answers is paramount if we hope to protect 'ōhi'a on other islands, and craft a restoration plan for impacted areas. We ask for your support of HB 1004, which would support this work. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha, Christy Martin CGAPS



The Nature Conservancy Hawaiʻi Program 923 Nuʻuanu Avenue Honolulu, HI 96817 Tel(808) 537-4508 Fax(808) 545-2019 nature.org/hawaii



Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i Supporting H.B. 1004 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death House Committee on Agriculture Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 8:45AM, Room 312

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 H.B. 1004. 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 (<u>HB1339/SB776</u>)—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 Agne Paul Alston Christopher Benjamin Dr. C. Tana Burkert Anne Carter Richard Cooke III Brian Doyle Thomas Gottlieb James Haynes III Sean Hehir Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Kathy Matsui James Polk Jean Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Dustin Sellers Nathan Smith Peter Tomozawa

From:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov	T
Sent:	Tuesday, January 31, 2017 6:03 PM	
То:	AGRtestimony	
Cc:	kcbrock@hawaii.edu	
Subject:	*Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb 1, 201	7 08:45AM*

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Brock	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 31, 2017 10:44 PM	LATE
То:	AGRtestimony	
Cc:	james.b.friday@gmail.com	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb	1, 2017 08:45AM

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

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

Comments: I am writing to testify in favor of HB 1004 appropriating \$3,655,000 for research and management of Rapid Ohia Death. I am the extension specialist in forestry with the University of Hawaii Cooperative Extension Service in Hilo, 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. Watershed values, habitat for our native birds, and Hawaiian cultural values are all threatened. Since we identified the pathogens in 2014, we have assembled team of pathologists, entomologists, ecologists, remote sensing experts, 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. Our initial funding from state, federal, and private sources has allowed us to make great strides in tracking and understanding the disease. More work needs to be done in understanding the biology and history of the pathogens, but we have learned enough that we can begin to implement control measures to stop the spread of the disease. An allocation of \$3,655,000 would allow UH and state land management agencies, and other groups to hire the staff needed to implement plans to protect our islands' forests. Mahalo for your care for the land.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

From: Sent:	mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov Tuesday, January 31, 2017 7:57 PM	
То:	AGRtestimony	
Cc:	farmfreshhawaii@gmail.com	
Subject:	Submitted testimony for HB1004 on Feb	1, 2017 08:45AM

Submitted on: 1/31/2017 Testimony for AGR on Feb 1, 2017 08:45AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juanita Kawamoto Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The negative environmental impacts to the Native Hawaiian Forrest, watershed and Hawaii's fragile Eco-system cannot continue at the rapid pace it is heading towards - Hawaiian forestry extinction. In my humble opinion, Rapid Ohia death, an "introduced" fungal pathogen, is the result of our disregard and inability to fulfill our obligation to Hawaii's state constitution - Protect and preserve Hawaii's natural resources. The urgency is paramount and our elected officials, in their duty to serve the people of Hawaii, is unequivocal. I implore our benevolent and insightful elected officials to do the right thing by placing the highest priorities on funding and instituting a "State of Emergency" process to eradicate this deadly disease. Please support this bill. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to these matters.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS CAUCUS Democratic Party of Hawaii e-mail: <u>leimomikhan@gmail.com</u>

late Late

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY Committee on Agriculture Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017, 8:45 a.m. State Capitol Conference Room 312

IN SUPPORT OF HB 1004, Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death

Rep.Richard P. Creagan, Chair Rep Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Aloha mai kākou

The Hawaiian Affairs Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i urges your committee to adopt HB 1004, Relating to the Rapid 'Ōhia Death, that would appropriate funds to implement the rapid 'ōhia death strategic response plan. Funding will support seven strategic objectives in the areas of containment, early detection, rapid response, outreach, and restoration. As is indicated in HB 1004, the rapid 'ōhi'a death strategic response plan was formulated in 2016 in response to the potential catastrophic loss in diversity, structure, and function of the State's remaining native forests.

'Ōhi'a is endemic to the islands of Hawai'i. As such, we have an obligation to care for this tree. They protect the upper reaches of the State's critically important watersheds, which supply fresh water to downstream communities and agriculture and they serve as a food source to certain insects.

In Native Hawaiian society, 'Ōhi'a was used in house and heiau construction, as well as to make poi boards, weapons, tool handles, statues and idols, seats for canoes, firewood, etc. The lehua (flowers) and liko lehua (leaf buds) were and continue to be used for lei. 'Ōhi'a also played a prominent role in the Pele legends. Today, thousands use the precious flower of lehua in their hula adornments.

Please appropriate the necessary funding to implement the Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death Strategic Response Plan since everyday that we wait, more destruction is occurring and we fear for the demise of the 'Ōhi'a, Hawaii's own endemic tree.

Respectfully,

LEIMOMI KHAN Chair



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Agriculture By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i Hearing: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 8:45 am Room 312



Support for HB 1004 Relating to Rapid 'Ohi'a Death

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 1004, which appropriates moneys for implementation of the Rapid 'Ohi'a Death Strategic Response Plan. This frightening fungal disease threatens our beloved 'ohi'a lehua trees – a dominant species in native Hawaiian forests and culturally significant plant.

The fungus destroys essential watersheds, habitat for rare and endangered Hawaiian forest birds and other animals, and 'ohi'a lehua trees "mother trees" for seedlings to take root and grow. The fungus threatens traditional and customary Hawaiian practices, recreation, and the economy.

Please pass HB 1004 and save our 'ohi'a lehua forests. Do it for the keiki and generations to come, who deserve to enjoy the 'ohi'a lehua forest as we do. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Mayrie Zizla

Marjorie Ziegler



Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www@conservehi.org P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814 President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters