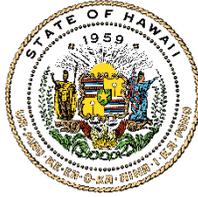


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
DEAN D. UYENO
ACTING 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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, February 14, 2024
9:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2619
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

House Bill 2619 proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

Invasive species prevention and management is critical to achieving the Department's mission of enhancing, protecting, conserving and managing Hawai'i's unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawai'i nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors. In island ecosystems, invasive species are the primary driver of biodiversity loss and can exacerbate the negative impacts of climate change. The Department and partners are racing against time to save species from extinction like the remaining populations of Hawaiian honeycreepers that are now threatened by mosquito-borne diseases as these pests move into upper elevations; the native land snails that are predated on by invasive snails, reptiles, and rodents that are spreading into upper watersheds; and the continued spread of the fungal pathogens that cause Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death that is killing a keystone species of native Hawaiian forests.

The threat of a new, devastating pest or disease is ever-present. As global trade and travel continues to increase and expand, there are more opportunities for new pest incursions to occur.

Recent statistics for Hawai'i estimate that 80% of commodities and 90% of food are imported, and over six million people visit Hawai'i each year making border biosecurity critical for preventing new invasive species from arriving and spreading in Hawai'i.

For too long the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) has been underfunded and understaffed to carry-out the immensity of their authority. They are the State Department that is mandated to implement Hawai'i's biosecurity program. They play an important role in inspecting cargo and passengers at all ports of entry for the importation of potentially harmful pests and regulate the importation and possession of nondomestic animals and microorganisms. Their authority protects Hawai'i's agricultural industries, natural resources, and the public from the entry and establishment of detrimental plants, animals, insects, weeds, plant diseases, and other pests.

House Bill 2619 is a much-needed boost to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture that will allow the Department to increase their capacity and operations to meet the growing needs and challenges Hawaii faces with managing new pathways like e-commerce, while still managing the conventional ones like shipping, planes, and people. This bill would also help achieve many of the actions outlined in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, of which both the Department and HDOA endorsed and are lead agencies. Those actions include additional inspectors at the Plant Quarantine branch, implementing a state-of-the-art biosecurity database that will help identify high-risk pathways and commodities, and development of tools for diagnostics at ports of entry.

The Department greatly appreciates the introduction of this bill and recognition of the importance of HDOA's role in invasive species management. The Department recommends that a comprehensive plan be included as part of this appropriation that outlines goals and actions on how HDOA will utilize the additional funding with an opportunity for input from other State Departments, federal agencies, and agencies, which could also be achieved through the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

FEBRUARY 14, 2024
9:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE BILL NO. 2619
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2619 relating to agricultural biosecurity. This appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The Department strongly supports this bill so long as it does not impact the budget priorities set forth in the Executive Budget Submittal. Next to preventing the introduction and spread of pests into and throughout the State, continual investments in research and development are necessary to address on-going issues and if possible, get ahead of pests that are on the horizon. With global trade and an increased ability to get almost any commodity globally in a matter of days, the threats pests pose is greater than ever. To protect and enhance critical agricultural production in the State, the continual development and refinement of diagnostic tools to enable proper pest



management prior to further spread throughout production areas; developing, distributing, and utilizing pest-resistant plant cultivars can often maintain production levels without additional labor or pesticide usage; new quarantine treatments enable farmers to use the most effective tools for pest management in addition to reducing pesticide resistance; and using crop specific/pest specific best-management practices reduce overall pest pressure; are all critical components in helping many agricultural production sectors fend off the threats and impacts of invasive species.

The department requests \$2,500,000 to fully implement this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII 96759
(808) 688-2892

HB2619, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
House AGR Hearing – 9:15 AM
Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House AGR Committee:

I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). I have been an officer of the Hawaii Farm Bureau for many years.

Recent informational briefings have emphasized the systemic impact of invasive species on agriculture, ranging from crop damage, cost, and time spent for mitigation to workers' inability to work in the fields or harvest crops.

The proposed Agricultural Biosecurity Program is not a 'nice to have' program. It is essential for an environment conducive to farmers' and ranchers' food production. New pests are introduced to Hawaii annually, adding to invasives already here. Axis deer, CRB, LFA, and coqui frogs are top of mind today. When these pests are left without control, eradication is almost impossible.

Adequate funding support for this essential program will provide the HDOA with the resources to prevent invasive species from entering the state and actively control or eradicate invasive species already here.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloo, Vice Chair

**Wednesday, February 14, 2024
9:15 AM**

VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB2619 RELATING TO AGRICULTURE BIOSECURITY

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 350 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.

The Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association (HFNA) **STRONGLY SUPPORTS House Bill 2619.**

Having clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management is an import part of our Bio Security program.

Clean plant material helps our producers start off with a clean slate of controlling pests and disease and provides less risk of contaminating other plants. It is important for our industry to be able to ship and provide pest and disease-free plants and products. Then our farms, fields and ranches need to maintain pest management.

Having access to clean plant materials will also allow an increase in production and the ability to expand. This is a good investment into agriculture and a helping hand to our Bio Security Program.

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 erie@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye

President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 — 9:15 a.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2619, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Dear Chair Gates and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at Ulupono Initiative. We are a Hawai'i-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy, clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

Ulupono supports HB 2619, which appropriates funds for the Biosecurity Program of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Ulupono supports the DOA's efforts to prevent, control, and mitigate invasive species throughout our state. With the economic difficulties experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, the state was forced to redirect critical funding across departments during the 2021 legislative session. As a result, the DOA was stripped of its ability to fund important biosecurity efforts, from inspections to import replacement projects. This bill seeks to reestablish the state's commitment to biosecurity, funding key tools to combat invasive pests and diseases.

We appreciate this committee's attention to this very important agricultural issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i



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 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 2619, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. HDOA's Biosecurity Program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.



February 12, 2024

Representative Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair
Representative Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Support of HB 2619 (Appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture [DOA] to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.)

Wednesday, February 14, 2014, at 9:15 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF) is a private, non-profit research and trade association whose members include major Hawaii landowners, developers, and utility companies. LURF's mission is to advocate for reasonable, rational, and equitable land use planning, legislation and regulations that encourage well-planned economic growth and development, while safeguarding Hawaii's significant natural and cultural resources, and public health and safety.

LURF appreciates the opportunity to express its **support of HB 2619**, and of the various agricultural stakeholder groups who defend the goals of viable agricultural operations and the conservation and protection of agriculture, including important agricultural lands in Hawaii

HB 2619. This bill proposes to appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the DOA to develop and implement projects to increase local agricultural production and to lessen the entry of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit brought into the State on imported agricultural goods.

LURF's Position. Invasive species such as insects, disease-bearing organisms, reptiles, weeds, and other pests pose the greatest threat to Hawaii's economy, tourism, agriculture, the natural environment, native species and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's people. In Hawaii, invasive species already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native wet, moist, and dry land forests, the spread of disease, and the quarantine of exported agricultural crops.

The DOA has established a biosecurity program to combat invasive species and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit and has also supported the growth

of agriculture in Hawaii by attempting to reduce the State's dependency on imported agricultural products that may contain these invasive pests. The public's health and welfare would benefit by continued and further funding of these biosecurity programs.

This bill is also consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified agriculture, increase agricultural self-sufficiency and assure the availability of agriculturally suitable lands." As noted in HRS Section 205-41, the intent of Act 183 (2005) was to develop agricultural incentive programs to promote agricultural viability, sustained growth of the agricultural industry, and the long-term use and protection of important agricultural lands for agricultural use.

Passage of the long-awaited IAL legislation would be pointless without implementation of programs and efforts like the DOA's biosecurity program which involve the collaboration and support of agricultural and business organizations, as well as government agencies.

By recognizing the significance of and need to improve and protect the local agriculture industry and establish programs which help to support the growth and maintenance of agriculture in the State, this bill significantly helps to promote economically viable agriculture and food self-sufficiency in Hawaii.

For the above reasons, LURF **supports HB 2619** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony regarding this matter.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Agriculture & Food Security Committee

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:15 am

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

HOUSE BILL 2619 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY.

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

SB2619 appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture, to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The Agriculture and Food Security Committee regards invasive species control and eradication as one of the most pressing issues facing our state. Along with a few other prominent issues, it stands out as the only way to preserve the Hawaii we know and love, the special place unlike any other, a fragile landscape of good will and prosperity maintained only by vigilance, persistence, and complete commitment. It is important to note that in ancient Hawaiian times, lazy attitudes and behavior could suffer draconian consequences.

strongly supports the proposed \$2M appropriation for this bill even though it requires exceeding the general fund expenditure ceiling, as it is a food security issue of exceptional priority, and as it provides support for local farmers in the quest to become more secure in their operations. Our committee believes this is another key element in providing successful food systems, supporting local growers who otherwise have a hard time competing with major producers where efficiencies of scale are available.

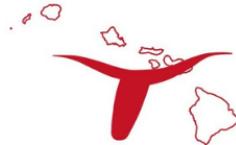
Our committee has worked with strategic partners across the community to arrive at the conclusion that food systems must be explored in order to derive a strategic plan to increase affordable fresh local produce food destined for local working family tables, alleviating our dependence on importing 85-90% of our food, increasing local food security and improving local nutrition. Direct support of the food bank and local growers through HB2137

We believe that Hawaii has too long emphasized export agriculture over local markets, in order to diversify the agricultural base and to produce revenues for the State, demonstrating agricultural productivity. Two casualties include degraded soils and nearshore waters, and affordable fresh local produce.

We strongly support the purchase of local produce in support of both ends of the market.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice Acting Chair, Agriculture and Food Security Committee
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HB2619

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 14, 2024, 9:15AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2619** which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

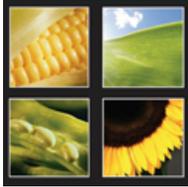
We are aware that there are many pressing issues that need funding, but invasive species directly affects food production and natural resource conservation. For example, Hawaii Island is responsible for 80% of the state's cattle production, so an outbreak of twolined spittlebug will be devastating not only to cattle ranchers, but to our endeavor for food security.

As a vulnerable island state, we must take measures to secure ports-of-entry and prevent the negative effects of invasive species on the environment. We support the investment in invasive species preventative measures, and efforts to implement requirements for importers and follow up with fines. This effort will help the economy and the health of the land in the long run, and curb added expenses for agricultural entities to address invasive species after they arrive and spread.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director





HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB2619
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

Date: Wednesday, February 14, 2024
Time: 9:15 AM
Place: Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB2619**, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The growing negative impacts of invasive species is currently one of the greatest dangers to Hawaii's agricultural industry. The Department of Agriculture needs the necessary funds and resources to fight these pests that pose such serious risks to the viability of our farming communities today and into the future. This bill attempts to address the invasive species threat on multiple fronts and that is why we stand in strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association is a Hawaii-based non-profit organization that promotes modern agriculture to help farmers and communities succeed. Through education, collaboration, and advocacy, we work to ensure a safe and sustainable food supply, support responsible farming practices, and build a healthy economy.



Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

7192 Kalaniana'ole Hwy
Suite A-143A, #249
Honolulu, HI 96825
Phone: 808/933/9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org

LATE

Date: 02/13/24

TO: AGR Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and AGR Committee Members Cochran, Lowen, Perruso, Woodson Ward

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB2619 Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Dear Chair Gates and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HB2619 Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA) supports funding of agricultural biosecurity programs. Such funding is an investment for our state and our future. Making small investments in the monitoring and response efforts provided by this program saves the state money in the long-term, reducing future economic damages.

Monitoring for and proactively protecting against invasive pests helps to protect our agricultural land/food producing land, our forested land and forest resources, our ranch and pasture lands, and the economies tied to all three. Additionally, being proactive in protecting our islands and resources against further outbreaks of invasive species is a responsibility we have to the future generations who will rely on those resources.

The HFIA hopes that you will support HB2619 Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Mahalo,

Guy Cellier, President
Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: President Guy Cellier, Vice President Irene Sprecher, Secretary Taylor Coons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nicholas Koch, Michael Sowards, Aileen Yeh

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:12:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Warren Watanabe	Maui County Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui County Farm Bureau is in strong support of HB 2619

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/12/2024 5:03:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY.

Appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 11:49:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 12:51:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito LHote	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is vital to work on bio safety, the amount of pest and diseases that have come to the island has to be answered to,.

yosh

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:00:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guy Ward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every airplane or ship is a possible carrier of the next invasive species. Native species have been devastated native species and agriculture is seriously handicapped by the ongoing introductions of new pests and diseases. Hawaii needs to get serious about bio-security.

Mahalo,

Guy Ward

Hilo

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 1:35:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **support** this bill that will provide much needed resources to DOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control and eradicate those that have unfortunately already become established here.

Please pass this measure.

Thank you.

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 2:14:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 14, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619

RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

9:15 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloe, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 2619, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year,

numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for the protection of Hawai'i's environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. HDOA's Biosecurity Program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Johnny Gordines

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 4:04:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to fund a BioSecurity program create and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management. we have been seeing the devastating effects that are the consequences of introducing invasive species in the islands.

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/13/2024 9:06:26 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:53 am

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloo, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 2619, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

Invasive species have become one of the most devastating problems impacting Hawai‘i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai‘i’s environment and economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture suffers when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, and varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk. This is not consistent with the State’s goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for the protection of Hawai‘i’s environment and economy and the health and lifestyle of its people through the support of invasive species prevention, control, research, outreach, and planning. HDOA’s Biosecurity Program is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species entering the state. This measure will provide resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai‘i and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawai‘i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Feb 14, 2024, 10:53 am

LATE

HB-2619

Submitted on: 2/14/2024 7:25:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/14/2024 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I am in support of HB2619.

Invasive species, pests, and controlling disease and disease vectors need to be a high priority to protect our fragile environment. This bill supports this effort and is very needed.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Keoni Shizuma