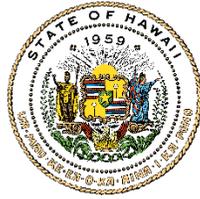


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I  
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

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA  
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL  
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  
FINANCE

Wednesday, March 29, 2023  
3:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1552, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 1552, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State. **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 Department's Executive Budget request.**

The Little Fire Ant (LFA) is designated as one of the world's top 100 worst invasive species by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). LFA continue to spread throughout the islands, reducing biological diversity and increasing operating costs for agriculture. The stings from LFA are painful and are a major human health risk. There has been an increase in LFA infestations across the State over the last year, especially on Maui, O'ahu and Kaua'i.

The Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) has a statewide mission to prevent the entry of invasive ants into Hawai'i and manage those already established. HAL is the only organization solely dedicated to the control of LFA in Hawai'i. HAL is administered through the Department for the prevention, control, and eradication of harmful invasive species, and is well-positioned to support the Hawai'i Ant Lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State.

In addition to supporting this measure, the Department encourages increased funding for biosecurity at ports and airports, and for early detection and rapid response of newly introduced invasive species, which is more cost-effective than long term control operations.

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

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
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 FINANCE**

**MARCH 29, 2023**  
**3:00 PM**  
**CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1552, SD2, HD1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1552, SD2, HD1. The bill appropriates funds to the Hawaii Ant Lab to support research and management efforts to invasive ants in Hawaii, in particular the little fire ant. The little fire ant is one of the most devastating invasive species for Hawaii's unique natural resources and agricultural economy. Continuous funding of the Hawaii Ant Lab will secure management of this invasive pest and working on potential eradication tools in the future.

The Department supports this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



TESTIMONY OF  
CASPER VANDERWOUDE  
HAWAII ANT LAB, HILO

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE  
29 March 2023, 3:00 pm  
308 & videoconference

**SENATE BILL NO. 1552**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

---

**Chair Yamashita, vice chair Kitagawa, and honorable members of the House Committee on Finance.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you on Senate Bill 1552. This bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources [LNR402] for the purpose of funding the Hawaii Ant Lab to continue the statewide battle against the Little Fire Ant.

Since 2009, the Hawai'i Ant Lab, a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (RCUH), has supported Hawaii residents and agricultural industries with significant technical advancements in control technology, using fewer and less toxic baits and pesticides, improving application methodologies, providing extensive training programs for residents and industry that reduces costs and labor while improving outcomes. HAL also operates statewide to eradicate, contain and manage infestations on O'ahu, Maui, Kaua'i as well as Hawai'i island.

The time when eradication was possible has long passed and the state of Hawai'i is left with a problem that will continue to spread. As this occurs, an increasing number of residents and businesses will be faced with the need to control this pest or the economic impacts it causes. The funds in this appropriation will be used primarily to manage the economic, social and environmental damages that this species can cause and provide the public with training, advice and methodologies to minimize these impacts.

Noted UH economists recently published a paper in the journal "Ecological Economics" (v100; pp100-110) that examined the likely economic effects of various management approaches. The most beneficial option was a

small annual investment in mitigation which would provide the greatest economic benefits to residents and businesses in Hawai'i when compared with lower or much higher inputs

The situation on each main island is unique. O'ahu and the big island are both extensively infested, while Maui and Kaua'i have lower infestation levels. The situation is changing most rapidly for O'ahu where despite efforts to slow the progression of this pest, an explosion of infestations over the next few years is a real probability. O'ahu is especially vulnerable to rapid spread of this species as they radiate outwards from an apparent core centered on Waimānalo and Hawai'i Kai as shown in the map below.

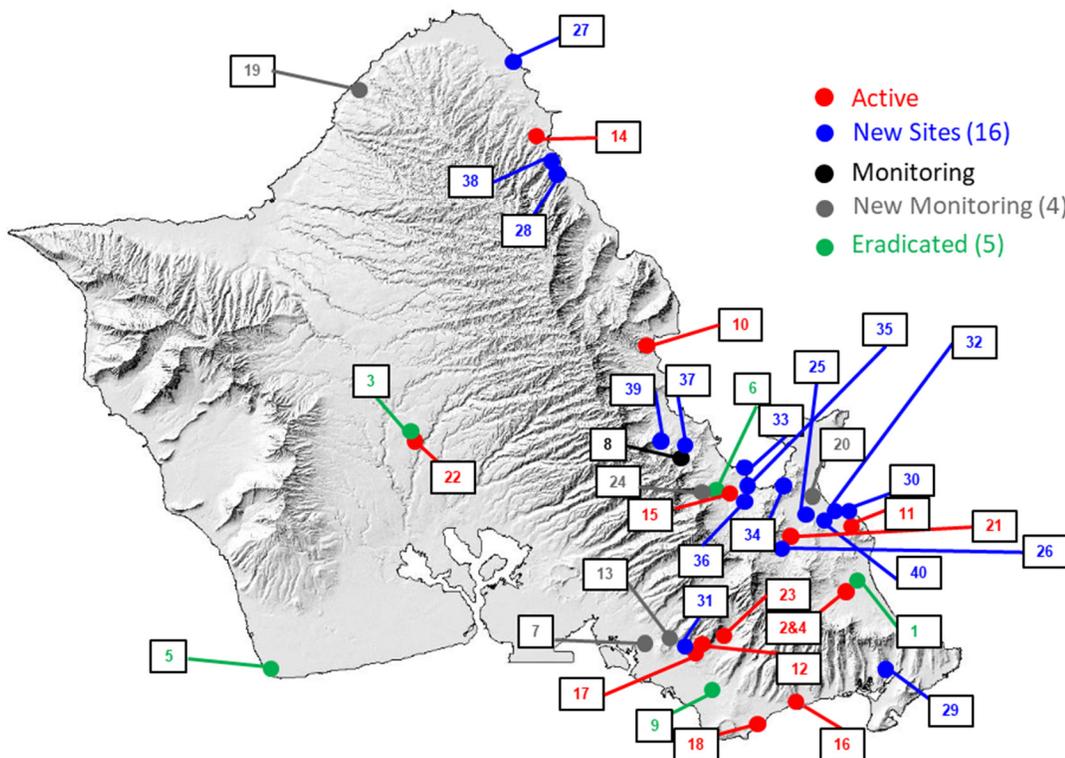


Figure 1. map of O'ahu showing locations known Little Fire Ant distribution (1 Jan 2023).

Hawai'i Ant Lab is unfunded beyond the 2022-23 fiscal year. Until 2021 the Hawaii Department of Agriculture provided funds for this purpose. However, recent administrative changes to the governance of source funds have changed access to the resources originally used to fund this project. For the 2022-23 fiscal year, the legislature made an appropriation that maintained staffing levels. Without ongoing funding, Hawai'i Ant Lab will no longer be able to provide services to residents and agriculture in Hawai'i. The funds initially

appropriated by this bill will maintain Hawaii Ant Lab capacity at present levels for 2023-24 and 2024-25 budget years.

HAL works to minimize the impacts of LFA to the people of Hawai'i. These impacts are a natural and predictable consequence of the arrival and subsequent spread of this species which began prior to its detection by the Hawai'i island State Entomologist in 1999. HAL objectives include:

- Preventing their movement between islands,
- Slowing their spread within islands,
- Providing advice, instruction and guidance for residents and affected industries,
- Developing better, safer and more effective treatment methodologies.
- Searching for solutions suitable for organic agriculture and pest control

Hawaii Ant Lab does this by working closely with other agencies with similar or overlapping mandates to contribute to the over-arching biosecurity strategy for Hawaii, deliver best-practice response and management of invasive ant incursions and developing better and safer control methodologies to industry and residents of the state. Over the past 14 years, the lab has been at the forefront of innovation, developing specific control products and application equipment for this species, tools to assist in early detection and prevention and broad networks of industry and resident stakeholders. The extension team do a fantastic job of training and guiding not only affected people from the agricultural industry but every day residents who are often frustrated by their inability to control this new pest.

Warm regards



Cas Vanderwoude  
Hawaii Ant Lab

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 2:29:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gordon Inouye	Puna Flower Power	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE need help in mitigating the existance of fire ants. Please help us?

Gordon Inouye

President, Puna Flower Power

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 2:47:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Witcover	Ma'alahi Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the funding of services provided by the the little fire ant lab. We need people focused on strategies to combat this particularly bothersome pest. This pest keeps workers out of the farmland so it is critical for people to know how to properly manage it.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 4:25:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erika Zemby	Kona Bae Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yet another invasive species causing havoc in Hawaii. Please continue to support the Hawaii Ant Lab so they can continue their good work. We all need to help stop the spread of fire ants throughout the islands before it is too late. Mahalo for your support.



**RE: Support for SB1552 SD2  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

University of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Ant Lab; Little Fire Ant; Appropriation; Department of Land and Natural Resources (\$)

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members,

The Synergistic Hawai'i Agriculture Council (SHAC) stands in support of this Bill. Our consortium represents 1,500 macadamia, coffee, papaya, and floriculture agribusinesses. SHAC's growers, processors, and shippers stretch across the State.

The Hawaii Ant Lab is a tremendously important contributor to the agricultural community. **Please fully appropriate this vital research and extension service.**

The Hawaii ag industry is being hit hard by an invasive ant species called *Wasmannia auropunctata* (Little Fire Ants or LFA), which is listed as one of the world's top 100 most invasive species ([www.issg.org/database](http://www.issg.org/database)). It is rapidly spreading throughout the Kona Districts and is impacting coffee farms as well as homes. On infested farms, workers will refuse to pick in some instances, because LFA will rain down and sting them when they are harvesting.

Farmers are also seeing a secondary impact of black sooty mold caused by the increase of plant pests (such as aphids, scale insects, and mealybugs) that LFA farm for food. This can lead to plant disease, reduction in the quality of produce, and overall crop loss for farmers. The Hawaii Ant Lab is one of our few lines of defense. They contribute valuable management expertise for homeowners and farmers alike.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support for the Hawaii Ant Lab and the pests that impact the coffee industry.

Suzanne Shriner  
Administrator



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

March 29, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1552, SD2, HD1**  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference  
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 SB 1552, SD2, HD1**, which appropriates funds to support the Hawai'i ant lab in mitigating the effects of little fire ants in the State.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawai'i. Many invasive species are damaging Hawai'i's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the coqui frog, coffee berry borer, axis deer, macadamia felted coccid, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle, varroa mite, two-lined spittlebug, to name a few.

HFB recognizes the harm that the little fire ant has caused to farms, businesses, and the quality of life of those affected by the pest. We agree the Hawai'i Ant Lab's operational funding is critical to ensure that continued measures to stop the spread of little fire ants are not reduced or disrupted.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 6:32:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Clare Wilson	Huahua Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I own and operate a diversified farm near Holualoa on the Big Island. We strongly support funding for the Hawaii Ant Lab to continue to fight this pest. We have had fire ants on our farm for several years now and must work to control them on a regular basis. Work done by the Hawaii Ant lab assists us in our efforts.

Mahalo,  
Clare Wilson  
Huahua Farm

29 March 2023  
BIISC  
23 E Kawili St  
Hilo, HI 96771  
[biisc@hawaii.edu](mailto:biisc@hawaii.edu)



Attn: House Committee on Finance  
RE: SB1552

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Committee Members,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee would like to express our support for SB1552, providing funding for the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL).

The threat that LFA pose to the environment, economy, and way of life in Hawaii cannot be overstated. Successful treatment in infested areas can take a year or more, and on Hawaii island, where the ants have been established for 30 years, maintaining an ant-free property requires treatment *in perpetuity* as residents must regularly apply barriers and monitor their properties to prevent re-infestation. Already, residents have told us of friends and neighbors who have moved away, unable to live with the constant stings.

A 2015 report by the University of Hawaii predicted that without serious intervention on the Big Island, little fire ants will cost the agricultural industry \$6 billion over the next 30 years. Farmers here report often that they are unable to find workers to harvest when the stinging ants fall from trees onto the faces and the eyes of pickers. LFA carry with them their own food sources: plant pests like aphids, mealy bugs, and whiteflies, a constant bane to farmers and gardeners that bring additional costs for control. In other Pacific islands, farmers have abandoned their ancestral farms due to LFA infestation.

Since 2016, BIISC has offered a community support program targeted at the community level to encourage neighbors to work together and mobilize one another. The research generated by the Hawaii Ant Lab is integral to our program, allowing us to bring up-to-date solutions to our residents to fight LFA. HAL has developed effective, safe, and easy-to-use treatments that the community can embrace and use, and they continue to pursue critical research into new and better methods that can be used in Hawai'i to combat LFA while providing critical assistance in eradication efforts on Oahu, Maui, and Kauai.

We also fear the importation of the deadly Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), which is spreading across the world. HAL staff monitor ant populations airports and ship ports, forming an early detection system that will hopefully allow us to respond and eradicate any new invasions before the window of possibility slams shut -something that happens far too often with insects, as we've seen many times in recent years.

We strongly support this bill, and hope you will see how essential and important it is to provide this funding. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Frances Brewer  
Program Manager  
[fbrewer@hawaii.edu](mailto:fbrewer@hawaii.edu)  
(808)933-3340



**RE: Support for SB1552 SD1  
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

University of Hawai'i; Hawai'i Ant Lab; Little Fire Ant; Appropriation; Department of Land and Natural Resources

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

The Hawaii Ant Lab is a protector of Hawaiian agriculture. **Please completely fund this research laboratory and important outreach effort.**

The Hawaii coffee industry is challenged by invasive ants (*Wasmannia auropunctatam* Little Fire Ants or LFA), which is listed as one of the planet's most aggressive species ([www.issg.org/database](http://www.issg.org/database)). It is spreading throughout the Kona Districts and is devastating to coffee farms as well as homes since workers will refuse to pick coffee cherry, because LFA will rain down and sting them when they are harvesting.

Farmers are also seeing a secondary impact of black sooty mold caused by the increase of plant pests (such as aphids, scale insects, and mealybugs) that LFA farm for food. This can lead to plant disease, reduction in the quality of produce, and overall crop loss for farmers. The Hawaii Ant Lab is one of our few lines of defense. They contribute valuable management expertise for homeowners and farmers alike.

My family has a small working coffee farm in Captain Cook and like other members of KCFA we would like to thank you for considering support for the Hawaii Ant Lab and the pests that impact the coffee industry.

Mahalo nui loa!

Mark Petersen, President

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:06:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Polly Petersen	The Four Sens, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a small coffee farmer in Captain Cook and member of KCFA we endorse this bill and support passage.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:45:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Beth Jiko Nakade	Daifukuji Soto Mission	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representing Daifukuji Soto Mission, an historic Buddhist temple in Kona on Hawaii Island, I am writing in support of the Hawaii Ant Lab. The Daifukuji congregation, as well as the Kona community which gathers at the temple for various programs and activities, have benefitted greatly from the services provided by the Hawaii Ant Lab over the years. In combatting our Little Fire Ant problem, we have received much support from both Heather Forester and Kiyoshi Adachi. Heather provided an educational LFA presentation to our community. Kiyoshi has been on site numerous times to guide us in controlling the ants. Thanks to them, our efforts have been successful. Please support the Hawaii Ant Lab. Their services are an asset to our community.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 6:48:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer V Perry	Volcano Isle Fruit Co, Inc.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to speak in favor of SB1552 relating to continued funding for control of the Little Fire Ants. These ants are a serious deterrent for farmers in many ways. Workers harvesting tree crops get rained on and then bitten, some with long lasting serious effects. They are so tiny that they are difficult to immediately see and pose a restriction to the export of tropical fruits out of the state. They cause blindness to our dogs and cats by entering their eyes and sucking on the fluid. They invade our homes and farm buildings. Constant monitoring and spraying is required to keep our farms from getting overwhelmed by this pest. It would pose a very serious problem if these little fire ants multiply on the other neighbor islands. Our farm is in the Puna area. We have so many pests to deal with, most recently the Long horn beetle which was recently discovered in our kukui windbreak. Please help us with research and other support. Mahalo.

# Stop LFA Kōhala

*Test, Treat, Educate*

P.O. Box 27  
Hawi, HI 96719  
808-640-5085  
stoplfakohala@gmail.com

March 29, 2023

Dear Members of the Finance Committee:

My name is Frank W. Hustace III, and I am the president of Stop LFA Kohala, a grassroots, community project under the fiscal umbrella of the North Kohala Community Resource Center, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

Stop LFA Kohala was formed several years ago to meet the challenge of LFA in Hawi, Kapa'au and other communities in the North Kohala region.

The work of the Hawai'i Ant Lab has been essential to our work. The staff has never failed to answer our call for information and practical help to mitigate the LFA threat. An emergency community meeting where Hawai'i Ant Lab staff made a presentation, drew over 300 residents.

Of immediate concern is a severe, uncontrolled outbreak of LFA in the Ho'ea Road area, about one mile from Hawi's central business district. Although the full extent of the current infestation is not precisely known, area residents estimate it may exceed 20 acres. At present, the outbreak has recently spread into a nearby gulch and is slowly spreading mauka through thick *haole koa* and undergrowth.

Owners of local restaurants, food markets, real estate offices, gift shops and adventure tourism businesses in Hawi have expressed considerable alarm about the proximity and spread of this infestation.

Stop LFA Kohala is battling the outbreak with volunteers. To date, volunteers have included members of the North Kohala Lions Club, students at Kohala High School and members of the public. The Hawai'i Ant Lab has supplied chemicals, training and equipment to support our volunteer efforts.

If left untreated, the Ho'ea Road LFA outbreak has the potential to significantly impact public health, business vitality and general quality of life for residents and visitors of North Kohala.

And this is not the only LFA infestation in Kohala. In addition to Ho'ea Road, other major "hot spots" include the Hawai'i County park at Keokea; the coastal area of Kapana'i'a, a bodysurfing beach popular with local families; the area surrounding Upolu

Airport; and other residential areas. Just last week, we received a call from a resident who brought in a pickup of infested firewood from Puna.

Stop LFA Kohala has fundraised over \$20,000 which is being used to purchase equipment, chemicals and to fund public outreach about the growing LFA threat in our communities.

Without the ongoing guidance and support of the Hawai'i Ant Lab, our work at Stop LFA Kohala would be significantly weakened.

Respectfully, I ask you to fully fund HBI518. Continued and increased funding for research and practical outreach regarding invasive species -- especially the unique threat of LFA -- is absolutely essential for us in North Kohala.

Please contact me if you have questions – telephone call is best (808-640-5085). I am eager to help you understand the special challenges here in Kohala -- challenges the Hawai'i Ant Lab is uniquely qualified to help us face.

With best aloha,

Frank Hustace

President, Stop LFA Kohala

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 3:20:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 5:44:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Ant Lab is doing excellent work helping to manage the LFA scourge here, but the fight is ongoing. Please fund the Ant Lab to continue their work (and preferably fund it high enough to expand their work).

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:45:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aileen K . F. Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support. We need more help to get rid of fire ants.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:16:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melody Euaparadorn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for accepting this testimony in favor of passing SB1552. The loss of funding by the Hawai'i Ant Lab comes at a critical time when an increasing number of isolated populations of Little Fire Ants are being identified across the islands. The requested funds will allow continued critical outreach, research, and rapid response to extinguish these outbreaks. I urge the committee to pass SB1552 as these efforts are imperative to prevent Little Fire Ants from spreading throughout our state and wreaking havoc in our agriculture fields, forests, and homes.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 12:10:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heather Forester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB1552. Though ants are small in size, they pose large problems for our State. I have personally seen the devastating impacts that invasive ants cause the people, pets, and industries of Hawaii. Invasive ants, such as Little Fire Ants (LFA), are changing our way of life, and if left unchecked will forever change Hawaii as we know it.

People become desperate when trying to find solutions to manage invasive ants. Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation that is spread in the public realm, which can lead to pesticide misuse. People have also been known to go to the extremes of using fire to defend against ants; one such case led to a structure fire.

The Hawaii Ant Lab educates the public on best management practices that are safe and legal. The Hawaii Ant Lab needs your support to continue serving the State by helping to prevent the spread of LFA, providing education on the management of LFA and other invasive ants, and early detection of invasive ants that are not established in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Heather Forester

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:37:17 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Keeling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good day and Aloha,

I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Fire Ant Program, I am a home owner in Keauhou-Kona area of Hawaii Island. When I called their office a very nice gentleman came out promptly to survey our problem of our tiny fire Ants that our gardners had reported. (At 84 their eye sight was better than mine).

The Agent arrived and showed me where thay were in my yard, where to bait them, how to bait them, how often to bait them, and what to bait's to buy to get best results. I then shared that info with my neighbors on both sides,

Without their service and knowledge I would have been left to the Multi Companies that sell Ant Killer products for a profit to obtain some overall awareness but nothing specific to my neighborhood's needs.

The Hawaii Ant Farm people are a great credit to Hawaii.

Aloha, Anthony and Linda Keeling

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 9:10:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1552 SD2 HD1.

**SB-1552-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 11:50:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/29/2023 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
michelle montgomery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB1552 as relating to invasive species in Hawaii.

My testimony is based on my personal opinion which has been formed from my experience as a research entomologist that has worked on LFA management for over a decade and invasive species impacts and management (generally) for nearly 20 years.

Little fire ants (LFA) are a major threat to Hawai'i's natural resources, self sufficiency, and quality of life. Their tiny size make it easy for everyday people to either not notice them or take for granted that such a tiny ant can have such big impacts. Because of this, people continue to unwittingly move or share LFA infested material and don't report infestations for many years. As time goes on, infestations will continue to be detected and action will be necessary to slow the spread and lessen the impacts LFA has on our everyday lives. The Hawaii Ant Lab has the expertise and experience to respond and effectively control LFA infestations but adequate long term funding is necessary for this to happen.

While SB1552 SD2 HD1 appropriates funding through the 2025 fiscal year, it is essential to maintaining operations and will bide time for ongoing sustainable funding to be identified and secured. Without it, the HAL will not be able to maintain adequate staff and resources to keep up with the increasing demand for LFA mitigation.

Please approve this bill with a sufficient dollar amount that will not only allow HAL to meet current needs but future needs as well.

Mahalo

Michele Montgomery