

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
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 11, 2024
1:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY**

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2619, HD1 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's original request was \$2,500,000 to fully implement this bill. After seeing other bills to support biosecurity, the department's new request could be as much as \$20,000,000. This would include additional costs attributed to Little Fire Ant, Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and Coqui response, an increase in staffing and planning funds for a biocontrol facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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 Senate Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Monday, March 11, 2024
1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2619 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

House Bill 2619 House Draft 1 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), the State department that is mandated to implement Hawai‘i’s biosecurity program, has lacked the capacity to carry-out the immensity of their authority. HDOA plays an important role in inspecting cargo and passengers at all ports of entry for the importation of potentially harmful pests, and regulating 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.

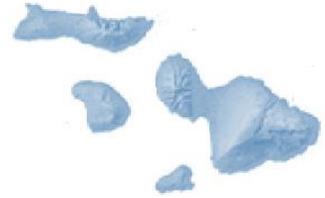
House Bill 2619 HD1 is a much-needed boost to the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture that will allow the Department to increase their capacity and operations to meet the growing needs and challenges Hawaii faces with managing new pathways like e-commerce, while still managing the conventional ones like shipping, planes, and people. This bill would also help achieve many of the actions outlined in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan 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 and federal agencies, and other partners. This work could also be achieved through the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council.

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

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: March 10, 2024

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB2619 HD1, RELATING TO AGRICULTURE
BIOSECURITY**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. This act 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 **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill allows for our State Department of Agriculture to implement much needed and long overdue biosecurity programs that are essential to secure and sustain environmental and public health and safety. Biosecurity and these programs and initiatives that need to be implemented are the back bone to our food and nutrition sustainability and security.
2. This bill allows for best management practices to be developed and implemented, especially at our ports, pre and post entry, which is the primary vector for countless pests and diseases that threaten our lives and existence here in Hawai'i.
3. This bill is just a first step to securing our endemic ecology/environment and ultimately our economy. If we don't significantly increase our biosecurity and the protection of our 'āina and endemic ecology there will come a time, for example, Hawai'i won't be able to produce and capture water. We are the most isolated land masses in the world, where historically one new species

Representative Mike Gabbard, Chair
Representative Herbert M. “Tim” Richards III, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
March 10, 2024
Page Two

was introduced once every three hundred thousand years. Today, because of our reliance on imports and current biosecurity measures, we introduce nearly a new species each day to our endemic ecology, which is the rarest and most unique in the world. With increased biosecurity we can begin to sustain a pono, resilient, and prosperous ‘āina, which is the foundation of our environmental and public health and safety, as well as, our economic viability.

For the foregoing reasons, we **SUPPORT** this measure.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

March 11, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

MCFB strongly supports HB2619, HD1, appropriating funds to the Department of Agriculture to implement a biosecurity program for the State of Hawaii.

Invasive species management is defined as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health” by the Executive Order 13112 creating the National Invasive Species Committee. Hawaii has significant focus on management of invasive species relating to biodiversity, impact on native species and ecological harm but has neglected impacts of invasive species on agricultural production. This has contributed to a decline of agricultural viability across the State despite the State's policy to increase levels of agricultural self sufficiency. Hawaii has reason to be proud in its' early recognition of the potential harm of invasive species to the islands by King Kalakaua, establishing the plant quarantine program in 1888 making Hawaii a pioneer in invasive species management. This leadership role is critical today as climate change and global transport increase the risk to the State. Priorities of how and where funds are spent must be clear taking into account the welfare of the State. In this scope the needs of agriculture must not be ignored.

Invasive species management started in the Department of Agriculture and regulatory authority continues to lie in the Department. There is a logic behind this decision as agricultural production's success lies in the protection of the environment within which it exists. For example, the protection of watersheds is critical to ensure water resources without which agricultural production is not possible. Protection of watersheds without balance to protecting other resources such as agricultural lands will result in movement of pests between boundaries

leading to endless management issues. Comprehensive programs must include management across land uses.

The pandemic resulted in a temporary focus on local agricultural production and as import abundance returned focus lapsed. The State invests resources into entities such as ADC to increase local agricultural production. Management of agricultural invasive species is critical to ensure the success of these investments. Recent challenges in melon fly outbreaks impacting cucurbit and melon production in Hawaii has received little attention outside of UH-CTAHR extension agents. It dramatically reduced local production with farmers experiencing major economic loss but few outside of the industry know about it as imports have replaced local production. These imports create risk to the State as inspection capacity by the Department is at an all time low and global movement of product can easily introduce new pests into the islands.

Funding of this measure accompanied with a clear strategic plan by the Department on protection of the State from invasive species across the board is in the interest of the State.

Your strong support of this measure is appreciated.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
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Chapter Presidents

Clarence Baber
Kohala, Hawai'i

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Fawn Helekahi-Burns
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Mason Scharer
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Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
Molokai

Negus Manna
Lāna'i

India Clark
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB2619.**

HB2619's allocation of funds to the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture will enable the development and implementation of essential projects aimed at ensuring the availability of clean plant material, enhancing agricultural treatments, advancing diagnostics, and bolstering pest management. These initiatives are crucial for ensuring the health and productivity of our crops and livestock, thereby protecting our farmers' livelihoods and the economic stability of our state.

Biosecurity plays a vital role in mitigating the risks associated with invasive pests, diseases, and other harmful organisms that pose a significant threat to our local agricultural industry. By investing in this program, we can proactively develop strategies and technologies to quell the spread of these threats, safeguarding our food supply, preserving the unique biodiversity of our islands, and maintaining the high quality of our agricultural products.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT
Monday, March 11, 2024 — 1:00 p.m.

Ulupono Initiative supports HB 2619 HD1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity.

Dear Chair Gabbard 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 HD1, 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

March 11, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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, HD1, 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 inconsistent with the State's goal of increasing self-sufficiency and sustainability.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for protecting 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 number 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 already established in Hawai'i.

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



March 8, 2024

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. “Tim” Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Support of HB 2619, H.D. 1 (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. Effective 7/1/3000.)

Monday, March 11, 2024, at 1:00 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 224, & 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, H.D. 1**, 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, H.D. 1. 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.

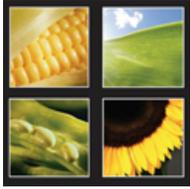
This bill is also consistent with the underlying intent and objectives of the IAL laws (Hawaii Revised Statutes [HRS], Sections 205-41 to 52), which were enacted to fulfill the mandate in Article XI, Section 3 of the Hawaii State Constitution, "to conserve and protect agricultural lands, promote diversified 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 funding for 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, H.D. 1** and respectfully urges your favorable consideration.

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



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB2619 HD1
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Date: Monday, March 11, 2024
Time: 1 PM
Place: Conference Room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Crop Improvement Association (HCIA) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony **in support of HB2619 HD1**, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB2619 HD1

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Monday, March 11, 2024, 1:00PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB2619 HD1** 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 boost our biosecurity. We support the investment in invasive species preventative measures. 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



HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2024 4:09:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Testifying for Ka Ohana O Na Pua	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Board of Ka Ohana O Na Pua stands in complete support for giving the Hawaii Department of Agriculture everything they need to create a more effective biosecurity program for Hawaii.

I have lived and farmed in Kona for the past 46 years, and so I have closely seen the dramatic increase in invasive species and the consequences for farmers, ecosystems, and the future of food in the Hawaiian Islands.

The Legislature must take this seriously, as invasive species challenges will impact tourist dollars, quality of community life, creation of a sustainable food system, and will only get more expensive in the future to combat.

Mahalo for believing in Chair Hurd, Deputy Kishida and their entire staff, who are ready and capable of creating effective programs that will turn the tide of invasive species that are now driving farmers from the land. Mahalo!



**THE SENATE
KA 'AHA KENEKOA
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair**

**Monday, March 11, 2024 1:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
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 important 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 2627, cell 960-1433 and email eric@greenpointnursery.com.

Supporting Agriculture and Hawaii,

Eric S. Tanouye
President

Hawaii Floriculture and Nursery Association



Hawai'i Forest Industry Association

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

Date: 03/08/24

TO: AEN Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, AEN Committee Members DeCoite, Rhoads, Awa, DeCoite, Hashimoto, Inouye, Kanuha, Kidani, Mercado Kim, Lee, Shimabukuro, Wakai, Fevella

FROM: Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: Testimony in Support of HB2619 HD1 Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), this testimony is in support of HB2619 HD1 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 HD1 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

LARRY JEFTS FARMS, LLC

PO BOX 27

KUNIA, HAWAII 96759

(808) 688-2892

HB2619hd1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Sen AEN Hearing – 1:00 PM

Monday, March 11, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs

Position: Support

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Sen AEN 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.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 10:46:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association (HAAA) supports HB 2619, HD1, which appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for protecting Hawaii’s environment and economy and the health and wellbeing 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 number of invasive species entering the State. This measure will provide resources to HDOA to help prevent new invasive species from entering Hawaii and to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species already established in Hawaii.

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

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 5:48:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It is critical that the funding for Biosecurity be supported ASAP. The future of Hawaii agriculture depends on it.

Johnny Gordines

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/9/2024 4:41:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to appropriating 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.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 7:47:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:48:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a local plant nursery operator as well as an agriculture and forestry researcher and cattle rancher on Hawaii Island, and **I support HB 2619, HD1**, 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.

Since the years when I was a vegetable truck farmer in the 70's, to the current time, there have been so many invasive, destructive, disease carrying insects and plants introduced, that it almost makes me want to give up growing things.

If more time and money had been spent on preventing these things from coming in, we would not be spending so much trying to eradicate or prevent them from spreading. But since they are here, we need to focus more on what we can do.

Proper funding for HDOA is critical for protecting 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 number 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 already established in Hawai‘i.

Thank you,

Aileen Yeh

942 W. Kawaihani St, Hilo, HI.

808 9362671

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/10/2024 9:16:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/11/2024 7:22:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2024 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Melone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2619 HD1. Invasive species have the potential to devastate communities and their ability to producer agricultural goods. More resources need to be devoted to minimizing the pressures from invasive species.

It is a reality on Hawai'i Island currently for ranchers and is impacting the production of local beef.

We must care for the natural resources of Hawai'i and maintain the ability for agricultural production and natural resource conservation. Biosecurity should be a priority for our State. I support the investment in invasive species preventative measures.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify on this matter.