

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**APRIL 4, 2024
10:15 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

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

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki 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. Besides 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 the ability to get almost any commodity globally in a matter of days, the threats pests pose to the State are greater than ever. To protect and enhance the State's critical agricultural production, developing and refining diagnostic tools enables proper pest management before further spread throughout production areas; developing, distributing, and utilizing pest-resistant plant cultivars enables maintaining production levels without the need for additional resources such as labor or pesticide usage; new quarantine treatments enable farmers to use the



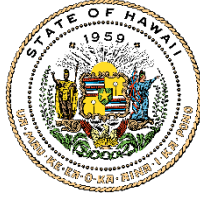
most effective tools for pest management in addition to reducing pesticide resistance; and using crop specific/pest specific best-management practices reduce overall pest pressure. This measure provides the resources to begin addressing these critical needs and provides many agricultural production sectors with much needed assistance in fending off the threats and impacts of pests and 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 responses; 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
WAYS AND MEANS

Thursday, April 4, 2024
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & 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 mandated to implement Hawai‘i’s biosecurity program, has lacked the capacity to carry out the immensity of its authority. HDOA plays an essential role in inspecting cargo and passengers at all ports of entry to prevent the import 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 HD1 is a much-needed boost to the Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture. It will allow the Department to increase its 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 developing tools for diagnostics at ports of entry.

The Department greatly appreciates the introduction of this bill and recognizes 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. This plan should include an opportunity for input from other state and federal agencies and 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.



HB 2619 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

April 4, 2024

10:15 a.m.

Conference Room 211

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB 2619 HD1, which is a crucial piece of legislation that addresses the vital issue of agricultural biosecurity in the State of Hawai‘i. **OHA highlights the proposed amendments are essential for safeguarding Hawai‘i’s unique environment, natural resources, public health, and economy.**

The biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture, as stipulated in this legislation, strategically addresses the multifarious challenges brought about by pests and prohibited organisms. The program, through pre-entry measures, port-of-entry inspections, and post-entry measures, ensures the safeguarding of our state from the introduction and spread of harmful entities.

The appropriation of funds is crucial for the development and implementation of projects essential for our agricultural sustainability. Initiatives such as clean seed development, varietal improvements, production and post-harvest treatments, diagnostics, and pest management programs underscore a commitment to fostering local agricultural production while minimizing the risk of invasive species. Enhancing our state's capacity to prevent the entry of high-risk products is not only essential for protecting our fragile environment but also paramount for the growth of Hawai‘i's local agricultural industries.

This legislation promotes self-sufficiency and sustainability by reducing dependency on imported agricultural goods that may harbor pests, aligning with the vision of a resilient and thriving Native Hawaiian agricultural community.

We strongly urge the Committee to consider the long-term benefits HB 2619 HD1 will bring to our state's biosecurity efforts and the well-being of our Native Hawaiian community. In doing so, we honor our commitment to preserving Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems, supporting local agriculture, and ensuring the health and prosperity of our people.

Accordingly, OHA urges this Committee to **PASS** HB 2619 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

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: Representative Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Representative Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

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

DATE: April 2, 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 needed 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 literally 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 was introduced once every three hundred thousand years. Today, because our reliance on imports and current biosecurity measures we introduce to our endemic ecology, which is the rarest and most unique in the world, nearly a new species every day. 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.

4. The County of Maui supports the biosecurity program under the department of agriculture because it recognizes the increasing threat to particularly our agricultural food crops and food security.
5. The Department of Agriculture developed the biosecurity program to fight Hawai‘i’s pests and prohibits restricted organisms without a permit which speeds up and bypasses a restrictive process.
6. The Hawai‘i State Department of Agriculture is required to implement the comprehensive biosecurity program to control and prevent increasing threats of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit from entering and spreading throughout the State.

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

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

HB2619hd1, Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity
Senate Ways and Means Decision-Making Hearing – 10:15 AM
Thursday, April 4, 2024

Testimony By: Larry Jeffs
Position: Support

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Senate WAM Committee:

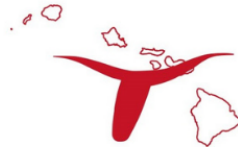
I am Larry Jeffs, owner and operator of Larry Jeffs Farms, LLC. We have more than 42 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. Our family farms grow about 1 million pounds weekly of import replacement produce. I am a volunteer director, serving as Chair of the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation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

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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

HB2619 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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





April 2, 2024

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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.)

Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 10:15 a.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 211, & 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.



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

**Thursday, April 4, 2024, 10:15 a.m.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 211
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street**

RE: HB2619, HD1 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, HD1.**

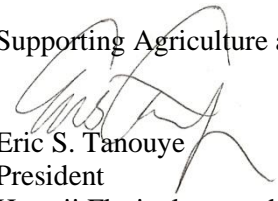
Having clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management is an important part of our Bio Security program.

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



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

April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, 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.



HAWAII CROP IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

In Support of HB2619 HD1
Relating to Agricultural Biosecurity

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024
Time: 10:15 AM
Place: Conference Room 211

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS
Thursday, April 4, 2024 — 10:15 a.m.

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz 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

LATE

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 11:04:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Kwan	Testifying for Carol Kwan Consulting LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Certified Arborist with my own consulting company. HDOA needs to significantly improve its biosecurity program for the sake of the agricultural industry and our natural environment. To do this, it needs funding and staffing. I realize that the Legislature has many competing demands for funding, but it's much cheaper to fund biosecurity to catch issues early than it is to try to deal with issues that have exploded beyond control.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

April 4, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 2619, HD1 RELATING TO AGRICULTURAL BIOSECURITY

Conference Room 211 & Videoconference
10:15 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

I am Warren Watanabe, Executive Director of the Maui County Farm Bureau. MCFB **strongly supports HB 2619, HD1** which will appropriate funds for the biosecurity program of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

The constant threat of invasive species being introduced into the state jeopardizes agriculture and the environment. Will we be able to increase all types of agricultural production? The answer is no, not under the current structure. New invasive pests need to be eradicated before they become established. Once they become insipient pests, our farmers and ranchers will have an additional production cost that they must absorb into their operations. This additional burden only places our farmers and ranchers at risk as a viable industry and economic contributor in the state.

MCFB strongly supports that the necessary resources be provided to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to implement the biosecurity program. We are at a critical juncture for Hawaii agriculture and action must be taken now. The consequences of not doing so will severely reduce Hawaii's agricultural goals and its ability to provide for itself.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our thoughts on this important measure.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2024 2:26:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I **support 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.

Invasive species directly affect food production and natural resource conservation. One example of invasive species directly impacting food production is on Hawaii Island, this main Hawaiian 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 also 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.

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:05:50 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support HB2619 HD1. thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony via email messaging. aloha

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 12:42:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support

LATE

HB-2619-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2024 3:03:27 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/4/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

The floriculture industry understands the importance of Biosecurity protocols and efforts needed to stop the flow of invasive pests and diseases in our islands. That is why it is important that we have a good Biosecurity plan that can function and serve everyone.

Just having Chapter 4-72 will not magically solve the problem. The Department of Agriculture needs to be funded and supported with resources and personnel/inspectors to continue this fight. The Biosecurity Plan with adequate inspectors will carry out our inspections of pre-entry, present port and post entry with comprehensive pest management programs for our state, businesses, visitors, and communities to work with to control, contain and eradicate pests.

The department has the trained personnel to do the job for production agriculture

I respectfully ask you to pass this bill for the future sustainability and profits of our farmers and ranchers.

Kauai Aloha;

Johnny Gordines - Tropical Flowers Express