

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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
10:15 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

In consideration of
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 24/ HOUSE RESOLUTION 14
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A PLAN TO
DEVELOP AN INVASIVE PESTS PLACARD PROGRAM AND ASSESS THE
RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM**

House Concurrent Resolution 24/ House Resolution 14 requests the Department of Agriculture to create a plan to develop an invasive species placard program and assess the resources needed to implement it. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures, provided that their passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive FY 2025 Supplemental Budget Request.**

The Department recognizes the efforts of the introducers of these resolutions to address the worsening spread of pests like little fire ants and coqui frogs in the state by establishing a placard system, like what the Department of Health uses for restaurants. The nursery trade is a known high-risk pathway for moving pests inter- and intra-island. Currently, the Department of Agriculture does not have a complete list of nursery operators in the state, only certified nurseries specific to exporting products out of Hawai'i. A nursery licensing program would create a system for the Department of Agriculture to regulate and communicate on commodities being sold to the public and better ensure products are free of significant pests like coqui frogs and little fire ants.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of these measures.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

RECEIVED
Date & Time
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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

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

MARCH 20, 2024

10:15 AM

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24 / HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 14
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A PLAN TO
DEVELOP AN INVASIVE PESTS PLACARD PROGRAM AND ASSESS THE
RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 24, requesting the Department of Agriculture (Department) to create a plan to develop an invasive species placard program and assess the resources needed to implement the program. The Department recognizes the threats pests and invasive species pose and offers comments.

The Department recognizes that a placard program, similar to the one used by the Hawaii Department of Health's Food Safety Branch, may be beneficial in mitigating the spread of pests. However, placarding alone would provide minimal benefits without the necessary authority to implement rules or create standards for affected parties. Additionally, the necessary financial and manpower resources to undertake such a large undertaking do not currently exist and reallocating existing resources would put the State at increased risk of introducing new pests that may be more detrimental than those already within the State.

The Department has previously testified on other measures that conservative estimates to effectuate a Plant Nursery Licensing Program, which contains a placarding component, would require a statewide CIP budget for facilities being approximately



\$12.5 million, with an additional \$8.3 million needed for staffing and operational funds. The Department also notes that nursery stock is not the only pathway for pests to be spread and the Department has found pests on a variety of non-regulated goods such as boats, pipes, vehicles, or electrical equipment and is working to finalize an amendment to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72, which would give the Department enhanced abilities to take action in these situations.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, March 20, 2024
10:15 AM Conference Room 325
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HCR 24/HR 14

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

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of HCR 24/HR14**, Requesting the Department of Agriculture to Create a Plan To Develop an Invasive Pests Placard Program and Assess the Resources Needed to Implement the Program.

We support the intent of the Resolutions and believe a placarding program, similar to the Department of Health's restaurant placarding program, could be an important tool to prevent the spread of invasive pests. As set out in the Resolutions, we agree that the public should have information about the likelihood that plants and other items they purchase may be infested with pests. We note that nursery stock and landscaping products pose a particularly high risk to consumers. These items are likely to be planted in the ground or used outside where a pest could establish and create a new infestation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support HCR 24/HR 14 and for consideration of our testimony.

Aloha,

Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager

Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

HCR-24

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:33:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

Yes to; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CREATE A PLAN TO DEVELOP AN INVASIVE PESTS PLACARD PROGRAM AND ASSESS THE RESOURCES NEEDED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM.