

HB 1403

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
and
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1403
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1403 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to implement a pesticide coupon program for control of the little fire ant in the County of Hawaii. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the environmental, economic, and public health impacts posed by the little fire ant, and is aware of the HDOA efforts to detect and control this species where possible. In particular, the Department notes that the Hawaii Ant Lab, a collaboration of the University of Hawaii and the HDOA, provides outreach and guidance to private individuals statewide in regard to little fire ant control. The Hawaii Ant Lab holds monthly workshops in the County of Hawaii to review control options for Little Fire Ant and provides information on best practices for pesticide use.

With regard to a coupon program for pesticides in which each coupon would entitle the bearer to a one-year supply of pesticide, the Department notes that, given the high per-unit cost of pesticide and the high number of infested properties in the County of Hawaii, such a coupon program would come at a very high total cost. The Department further notes that while the coupon program may decrease the number of ants on a property whose owner elects to use his or her coupon, larger scale reduction in ant populations across property boundaries would require a strategically coordinated effort among landowners. The Department defers to the HDOA on the fiscal requirements of implementing a pesticide coupon program as well as the efficacy of this treatment model.

CARTY S. CHANG
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

March 19, 2015
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 414

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1403
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Chairperson Ruderman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Bill No. 1403. This bill mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant (LFA) Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map, and requires reports to be submitted to the Legislature prior to the 2016 and 2017 Regular Sessions. The Department supports the intent of this measure but would ask for the resources to carry out its intent.

The Department understands the harmful and invasive nature of LFA. As such, the Department has recently provided support to Hawaii County for a pilot program to combat LFA beginning with Hawaii County parks. The Department has also provided funding and support for the Hawaii Ant Lab, an organization that has been on the forefront in the fight against LFA and has created new and innovative methods to treat and eradicate LFA infestations. Furthermore, it is our understanding that the Hawaii Ant Lab is currently working on a map of known LFA infestations throughout the Big Island and further resources for the Hawaii Ant Lab could help them to finish this project and disseminate that information.

In regards to the coupon pilot project, the Department asks for the resources to monitor such a program. It would be very difficult for the Department, with its given resources, to verify and monitor if the pesticides were being used for the purpose of



controlling LFA or for other purposes, however, the Department is looking forward to working with the legislature on this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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March 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1403
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 414
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Ruderman, Vice Chair Green, Vice Chair Riviere and Members of the Committees:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFBB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

HFB is in strong support of HB 1403, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map.

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 that immediate measures must be undertaken to stop its spread to other areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting the Intent H.B. 1403 Relating to Invasive Species
Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Thursday, March 19, 2015, 3:00PM, Room 414

For more than 35 years, The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i has been working closely with government agencies, local businesses, private landowners, non-profit partners, and interested communities across the state to preserve the lands and waters upon which all life in these islands depends. The Conservancy is a private non-profit conservation organization that has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i, and support 19 coastal communities seeking to co-manage marine resources in partnership with the State of Hawai'i.

The Nature Conservancy supports the intent of H.B. 1403 to enhance control efforts for little fire ants on Hawai'i Island by requiring the Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to map infestation sites and establish a pilot pesticide coupon project for property owners. We are concerned that providing free pesticides to property owners in an uncoordinated fashion may result in an expensive but piecemeal and ultimately ineffective treatment and control effort.

If the Legislature is inclined toward a program of subsidies for pesticide purchases, we suggest that supporting a coordinated effort possibly involving the HDOA, the UH Cooperative Extension Service, the Hawai'i Ant Lab, licensed pest control professionals, and established agricultural and nursery associations would be important. An effort coordinated by these entities could have the potential to ensure that amongst other things pesticide application sites are prioritized and coordinated, that application is done consistently, correctly and for the appropriate period of time, and that measures are in place to prevent reinfestation.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for little fire ant control on Hawai'i Island will be additive and not prevent the Legislature, the Administration and partners from also devoting appropriate attention and funding to the full range of pest issues across the islands. Therefore, we respectfully ask that this Committee and the Legislature also take a comprehensive approach of providing significant and consistent funding to address the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research and outreach priorities across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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March 19, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture
State Capitol, Room 414
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: H.B. 1403, Relating to Invasive Species

HEARING: Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 3:30 p.m.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Joint Committees:

I am Myoung Oh, Government Affairs Director, here to testify on behalf of the Hawai'i Association of REALTORS® ("HAR"), the voice of real estate in Hawai'i, and its 8,400 members. HAR **provides comments on** H.B. 1403 which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department to submit reports to the Legislature prior to the 2016 and 2017 Regular Sessions.

HAR believes that programs to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species are valuable to the quality of life of our residents. Additionally, invasive species can have extreme negative impacts to homeowners and the real estate industry.

While this pilot project is a step in the right direction, HAR believes that a comprehensive approach is needed to address the issue of invasive species. HAR would also note that while one property owner may choose to utilize this pilot project an adjacent owner may not, which may not stop the spread of fire ants in the long-term.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE
AND ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1403 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 414
March 19, 2015
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Ruderman, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Riviere, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committees,

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports HB 1043 which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant (LFA) Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. We recognize the harm that the LFA has caused to farms, businesses, and our islands. Given the level that the problem on the Big Island has grown to, it is our understanding that eradication there may no longer be possible. Therefore, we strongly support a comprehensive plan through the Department of Agriculture to aid this huge and growing problem for all islands in Hawaii.

Here at the Maui Chamber of Commerce, we believe in creating a strong economic environment that supports job growth while also protecting our environment and preserving our quality of life. We support the "triple bottom-line" view of sustainability: economy, environment and social well-being. The infestations of LFA are affecting all three of these important aspects of our islands' life.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce, therefore, has the LFA as one of its top legislative priorities this year and has recently contributed \$30,000 through the Maui Quarantine Fund for a dog program that detects LFA that can benefit the entire state. Strong investment is needed by the state now to prevent further LFA expansion on Maui and Oahu where additional sites continue to be found, but eradication is still possible.

Introduced species can have dramatic and devastating effects on the plants and animals that have evolved to live in such remote isolation, and the isolation can affect the way these species behave. Little fire ants are insidious invaders. They don't announce their presence by swarming feet and legs; instead, they sting when they are trapped against skin or in clothing. Establishing nests in trees and amongst ground cover, LFA can reach densities of 20,000 workers per meter, or a whopping 155 ants in a square inch. At that level, painful encounters become unavoidable. In 2014, LFA made it through the inspection system at least four times on Maui. LFA was detected at a high-end resort, a condominium, and a nursery on Maui. Recently, two major infestations of little fire ants were discovered in East Maui that will take significant resources to address.

Our HDOA inspectors are making heroic efforts to stop pests from breaching our borders but they still don't have adequate staffing or facilities. We need your help, a comprehensive plan and additional funding now.

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

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President



HAWAII PEST CONTROL ASSOCIATION

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March 19, 2015

Testimony To: Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair

Presented By: Tim Lyons, CAE
Executive Director

Subject: H.B. 1403 - RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Gabbard, Chair Ruderman and Members of the Joint Committee:

I am Tim Lyons, Executive Director of the Hawaii Pest Control Association. It is our members who treat structures for pests including ants. We support this bill but with some comments.

Ant control is actually not a very easy thing to do. After all, we find ants on the 36th floor of a condominium, we find them in airplanes and just about everywhere else. This bill proposes to provide for a pilot pesticide treatment project which we generally agree with however we think it will be a huge waste of money to provide the treatments directly to homeowners for their application.

Pest control operators are trained in ant control. They are taught their biology, their reproduction cycles, their foraging habits and the best ways to control them. The bill further provides for a one year supply to individuals who have verified the presence of little fire ants. We are not sure what a one year supply is. After all, in some cases if a treatment is made correctly and effectively it takes care of the problem and there is no need to give any additional supplies to the homeowners. On the other hand, if it is a particularly heavy infestation and is not applied correctly you might have to make treatments once a month for a year.

We would highly recommend that this bill be amended to provide for a survey in two (2) phases. One, for those projects where the homeowner did their own treatment and the other where a professional pest control operator was used. The amount of chemical could be tracked, the number of applications and the success rate.

Finally, we would think that with all the "fear" going on regarding pesticides that at the very least, you would want to have applications made by individuals who have been trained. After all the majority of the misapplications that we have read about with HazMat people being called in and children going home sick have been from homeowner applications not from professional pest control operators.

Based on the above, we support this bill but believe it should be amended in order to evaluate results from applications by both professional pest control operators and by homeowners.

Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [ENETestimony](#)
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1403 on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM*
Date: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 8:10:34 PM

HB1403

Submitted on: 3/17/2015

Testimony for ENE/AGL on Mar 19, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture
And
Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment
Thursday, March 19, 2015; 3:00 pm
By
J. Kenneth Grace**

HB 1403 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

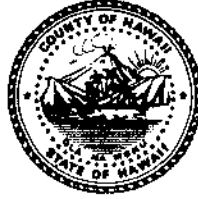
Chairs Ruderman and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Riviere and Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Senate Committee on Energy and the Environment, thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1403, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project for Hawai'i County, and a site map of little fire ant infestations on the Island of Hawai'i.

My name is J. Kenneth Grace. I am a resident of Kaneohe, and employed as Associate Dean for Research in the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am providing personal testimony on HB 1403.

As a research entomologist, I have conducted studies on the control of both ants and termites, and for a decade was a member of the national technical advisory committee for Operation Full-Stop, an area-wide pest suppression program for subterranean termites implemented by USDA-ARS focusing on termite control in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Louisiana.

HB 1403 points out the problem of people "left behind" in the wake of an invasive pest moving across the State, and offers a creative approach to assist them, and to collect current information on the distribution of that pest.

DENNIS "FRESH" ONISHI
Council Member
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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

March 17, 2015

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture

Dear Chair Gabbard, Chair Ruderman and Joint Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill No. 1403, which mandates the Department of Agriculture to establish a Little Fire Ant (LFA) Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project and site map. Requires the Department to submit reports to the Legislature prior to the 2016 and 2017 Regular Sessions.

Our parks and beaches are important resources for kama'āina and visitors to use and enjoy. But these public places have been under serious threat by the little fire ant.

In an effort to address this growing environmental hazard, with awarded grant funding, the Hawai'i County's Department of Parks and Recreation have established an abatement strategy and protocol which have been utilized at public parks island wide since January 2014. The results have been both impressive and assuring.

A little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project would be extremely helpful, particularly for the residents who live adjacent to the public parks that are currently being treated. A multi-pronged approach to this devastating threat is the best way to keep it from spreading further.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

Sincerely,

Dennis "Fresh" Onishi
Hawai'i County Council Member