

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

LATE

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY,
INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS & AGRICULTURE &
ENVIRONMENT

FEBRUARY 8, 2017
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224

SENATE BILL NO. 637
RELATING TO COUNTY ACCESS TO PRIVATE PROPERTY

Chairpersons Nishihara and Gabbard and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 637, which allows for additional enforcement and regulatory action to address invasive pest species issues. The Department supports the intent of this bill.

The Department works closely with each island invasive species committee (ISC), often to address early post-entry invasive pest establishment. In working with the island invasive species committees, it is critically important to address a new invasive pest species as soon as it is detected. If the intent of this bill is to empower county ISCs, then the measure improves the odds of successful eradication of an invasive pest by leveraging enforcement resources. Recent serious invasive pest species outbreaks such as the little fire ant and coqui frog are excellent examples how the Department and the island invasive species committees can move quickly to eliminate newly established invasive pests as long as access to private property is secured.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 637

2.8.17

Submitted by David DeLeon, on behalf of the Haiku Hill community, Maui.

Chair Nishihara and Chair Gabbard and the members of the Senate Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs and Agriculture Environment Committees. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of Senate Bill 637. I am testifying because our community has seen the environmental disaster that has unfolded on the Big Island and are fighting to keep that same outcome from befalling Maui. We are estimating that our Northshore Maui community is about a decade before it is overwhelmed by Little Fire Ants, Coqui Frogs, and other foreign critters that are having such a drastic impact on the quality of life on the Big Island.

Current State law clearly makes this fight your kuleana, so we must depend on your leadership and the agencies you direct. A recent Maui case highlighted the need to rethink our state's approach to this problem. In that case tenants of a property infested with Little Fire Ants refused the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) access to treat the infestation. The State Director of Agriculture overcame that resistance by prevailing on the State Attorney General to seek a court warrant to allow MISC to enter and treat the infestation and then personally hand-carried the order to Maui. The Director's action were laudable, however, there are many such cases in which recalcitrant property owners refuse access. The State Ag Chair cannot personally deal with each case. Likewise, there is no AG office on Maui. While the state's intent is good, its resources are stretched thin. The Counties have resources that would allow a more efficient response to this issue – such as legal offices on the affected island. Maui County has already demonstrated its desire to contribute to this effort by appropriating over \$1 million to help our community combat our growing coqui outbreak. But current law blocks the Counties from being more pro-active.

If the humans are going to win this fight, we need all hands on deck. That's why I support SB 637 which is meant to bring the resources of the County governments to bear on this fight, in coordination with the State and allow efficient appropriate governmental agencies to address the problem of private owners who refuse to manage these pests on their properties. Maui County's leaders have already demonstrated their concern and willingness to participate in saving our way of life. They just need the statutory authority to become your active partner.

Mahalo for receiving this testimony and for your support of SB 637.

David DeLeon
335 Waiama Way
Haiku, Hi
808-575-9711

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 12:25 AM
To: PSMTTestimony
Cc: legechair@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB637 on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM*

LATE

SB637

Submitted on: 2/8/2017

Testimony for PSM/AEN on Feb 8, 2017 13:15PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Simon Russell	Hawaii Farmers Union United	Support	Yes

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov