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Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,  
AND HEALTH**

**JUNE 30, 2020  
9:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1854 HD1, SD1  
RELATING TO LITTLE FIRE ANTS**

Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1854 HD1, SD1 Relating to Little Fire Ants. This bill authorizes the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, in conjunction with the Hawaii Ant Lab, to identify best practices for the treatment of little fire ants and requires the Department to post any identified best practices on its website. It further adds to the prohibited acts of pesticides any application that may defeat the best practices for the treatment of little fire ants as identified by the Department. Lastly, it clarifies that training for invasive species be based on the best available technology and best practices in a manner consistent with state and federal laws. The Department supports the intent of this measure and offers comments.

Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawaii's agriculture and economy. *Wasmannia auropunctata*, commonly known as the little fire ant, is a significant pest of Hawaii's natural resources, agriculture, economy, and to the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's residents and visitors. The Department is a funder and partner of the Hawaii Ant Lab, a project of the University of Hawaii Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit. The Department also works with the county invasive species committees on response to



little fire ants as necessary. The Department is supportive of making best management practices readily available to pest control operators via posting on its website, and supports the prohibition of acts which may interfere with the implementation of those practices. However, the Department notes that in regions where little fire ant populations are already established (such as the Windward Coast of Hawaii Island), eradication is no longer considered feasible with available technologies. The Department instead aims to contain little fire ants in such regions with established populations and prevent their spread to other regions of the State, and the implementation of best management practices can help in this regard. It should be noted, though, that treatment of little fire ants on individuals' properties in those regions with established populations of little fire ants will likely have only temporary efficacy, even with the use of best management practices, because of subsequent spread onto the treated property from neighboring untreated properties.

Including training on control of invasive species that is based on the best available technology and best practices in pesticide workshops and educational programs is a useful addition to such training, to the extent that it may not already be occurring.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**HB-1854-SD-1**

Submitted on: 6/28/2020 7:59:00 AM

Testimony for CPH on 6/30/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tim Lyons	Testifying for Hawaii Pest Control Association	Support	No

Comments:

The HPCA favors this bill based solely on the amendments contained SD 1. We appreciate the work done on this bill and believe it will help the industry and the public to deal with this very difficult to control pest.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**HB-1854-SD-1**

Submitted on: 6/29/2020 3:27:14 PM  
Testimony for CPH on 6/30/2020 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: