

**TESTIMONY**  
**SCR 72/ SR 43**  
**LATE**

## **Maui County Farm Bureau**

*An Affiliate of the American Farm Bureau Federation and Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation*

*Serving Maui's Farmers and Ranchers*

P.O. Box 148

Kula, Hawaii 96790

**LATE TESTIMONY**

### TESTIMONY

#### **RE:SCR 72 and SR 43 REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES FROM ENTERING THE STATE OF HAWAII**

Chair Hee, Chair Espero and Members of the Committees:

Maui County Farm Bureau is Maui's general agriculture advocacy non-profit organization. Affiliated with the Hawaii Farm Bureau and American Farm Bureau Federation, we represent Maui's farm and ranch families and organizations. MCFB **strongly supports** SCR 72 and SR43, requesting a collaborative effort between Federal and State entities to control invasive species.

Coqui frogs are threatening the viability of our nursery and landscape members and the varroa mite may cause havoc to our budding fruit tree industry, not to mention our flower and vegetable farms. Invasive species affects us all.....including the watersheds from which we receive our water.

This measure supports the Hawaii Biosecurity Plan which provides our roadmap to taking a proactive approach to the control of invasive species. Those of us on Maui face an additional risk of having the most congested port facility in the State. The concept of a joint use inspection facility is a good use of resources while achieving goals of better food security(part of Biosecurity) for the island.

MCFB respectfully requests your strong support of these resolutions. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this matter.



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII°  
MĀNOA

**LATE TESTIMONY**

RL:2253

SR 43/SCR 72

REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAN SECURITY TO COLLABORATE AND SHARE INFORMATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO PREVENT INVASIVE SPEICIES FORM ENTERING THE UNITED STATES

Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs  
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Joint Public Hearing – March 23, 2009  
2:45 p.m., State Capitol, Conference Room 229

By

Rachel Neville, Oahu Invasive Species Committee  
Peter Rappa, Environmental Center

SR 43/SCR 72 requests cooperation among federal and state agencies preventing the establishment and spread of invasive species. We are testifying as individual faculty and our views do not represent an official position of the University of Hawaii.

We support the intent of this resolution. Some progress has been made regarding communication between the entities named in this resolution, but there is room for improvement. Customs officials regularly attend and report out at meeting of the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) but state and federal agencies responsible for protecting Hawaii against invasive species need to communicate with each other immediately if pests are detected in international shipments.

Invasive species are the single biggest threat to Hawaii's economy and natural environment. Pests already cause millions of dollars in crop losses, the extinction of native species, the destruction of native forests, and the spread of disease. But many more harmful pests now threaten to invade Hawaii and wreak further damage. Alien species have already had a tremendous effect on Hawaii's unique flora and fauna. Because of its isolation, Hawaii originally had thousands of species found nowhere else on Earth. It has, however, suffered the highest rates of extinction of any area of the United States and one of the highest rates anywhere in the world, with hundreds or possibly thousands of unique species already extinct. The primary agent of this remarkable loss of native biodiversity has been the massive introduction by humans of alien species to the Hawaiian Islands. Only through vigilance enhanced by cooperation among agencies charged with the interception and eradication of invasive species can the islands be protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

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**LATE**  
**(END)**