

SB2240

Measure Title:	MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH.
Report Title:	Appropriation; Health; Vector Control (\$)
Description:	Makes an appropriation to the department of health to hire more vector control employees and reestablish a vector control branch.
Companion:	HB2061
Package:	None
Current Referral:	CPH, WAM
Introducer(s):	KEITH-AGARAN, BAKER, ENGLISH, GABBARD, GALUTERIA, GREEN, NISHIHARA, RUDERMAN, SHIMABUKURO, Dela Cruz

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240
A BILL MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

BY
MAJOR GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 4, 2016

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health.

I am Major General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240.

The lack of a Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health seriously impedes the current Dengue control efforts on Hawaii Island. The State needs to recover from the drastic 2009 personnel reductions that seriously impact any vector control response. With the increased threat from Dengue, Zika and other mosquito vector diseases, it is critical the Vector Control Branch in the Department of Health be reestablished immediately.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240.

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2240
A BILL MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
TO REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH

PRESENTATION TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,
CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

BY
VERN MIYAGI
ADMINISTRATOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
February 4, 2016

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce,
Consumer Protection, and Health.

I am Vern Miyagi, Administrator of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying
in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2240.

Based on the current Dengue outbreak situation on the Big Island and the advent of other
mosquito vector borne illnesses that could threaten Hawaii, it is clear that the Vector Control
Branch in the Department of Health needs to be re-established immediately.

What kept us safe in the past was an active and dedicated Vector Control Branch in the Hawaii
Department of Health. The severe staff reductions in 2009 are the primary cause of the current
outbreaks of mosquito vector diseases in the state. Please support this re-establishment
action.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of Senate Bill 2152.



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING SB 2240
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO
REESTABLISH A VECTOR CONTROL BRANCH
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016, 9:00 A.M., CONFERENCE ROOM 229

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

Chair Baker and Vice Chair Kidani:

BIISC supports this measure, and offers the following comments:

Thank you for taking swift action to restore these much needed positions.

In his interim report on the handling of the Dengue outbreak in Hawaii, Lyle R. Petersen, MD, MPH Director, Division of Vector-Borne Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concludes that Hawaii needs additional staffing immediately to help manage the exhaustion of the current small and overworked staff handling the direct mosquito control effort, and to expand the treated areas around active cases. These are critical positions and certainly should be filled with all haste, not only to relieve the existing staff, but to bolster our capacity in the event that a second outbreak of this or another vector borne disease is encountered in the near future. Hawaii County can certainly attest to the difficulty of managing two back-to-back emergencies, as we did last year when Tropical Storm Iselle was immediately followed up by a lava flow approaching Pahoehoe, in the same district. All vector control workers in the state are reportedly working on Hawaii Island now, leaving the rest of the state vulnerable.

Dr. Peterson also concluded that Hawaii needs additional expertise in long term, high level positions including medical entomology and epidemiology to ensure proper data collection, analysis, identification of both diseases and vectors, evaluation and management of the pathways spreading disease. As tropical vector-borne diseases become globally more widespread, we need top level positions reinstated to ensure modern integrated vector management systems are in place, backed by sound policy focused on the broad view of public and environmental health.

With deference to the Hawaii Department of Health on specifics, we ask that your appropriation addresses both the immediate need for vector control workers and supervisors, and the higher level research and integrated vector management level positions needed. We also once again extend the offer of the assistance of our staff, certified pesticide applicators trained in neighborhood access and coordination, if needed to supplement the mosquito control effort.

Dr. Petersen's report can be found at the following link:

http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2015/12/CDC-Hawaii-assessment_final.pdf



7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • www.kauaiisc.org

February 3, 2016

Testimony of Bill Lucey – Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Supporting SB 2240 relating to the reestablishment of the HDOA Vector Control Branch

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Public Health

Chair Baker and Vice Chair Kidani

Thursday, February 4, 2016, 9:00AM

I would like to offer this letter of support for appropriating funds to reestablish a Vector Control Branch within the Department of Health with sufficient staffing. The expansion of dengue fever and zika virus are clear examples of how vital these services are to protect the public. Invasive species include viruses and diseases as well as insect, plant and animal pests. All are risks to public health, the environment and the economy.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
University of Hawaii

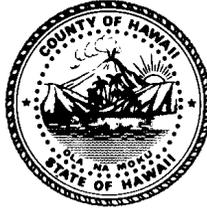


Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Supporting S.B. 2240: Making an Appropriation to the Department of Health to
Reestablish a Vector Control Branch
Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
Thursday February 4, 2016, 9:00 AM, Room 229

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee supports S.B. 2240 which would reestablish the Vector Control branch at the State Department of Health. The current Dengue Fever outbreak makes plain the need for a state agency that is able to facilitate all aspects of mosquito-borne diseases including prevention, early detection, outreach and eradication. *Aedes aegypti*, the main vector for Dengue fever is present on the Big Island, it is currently believed to be restricted to the Big Island, but it could spread to the other islands. The Centers for Disease Control note that *Aedes aegypti* has over the years made several adaptations in the face of human efforts to eradicate it. The State will have to mount a sustained and systematic effort to rid itself of this mosquito.

In addition to Dengue, *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* both carry the Zika, Chikenguya and Yellow Fever viruses. We do not have the species of mosquito that carries malaria, but given that our tourist-based economy would crash if people had to take malaria medication while they were on vacation here, an early detection program seems warranted. There is certainly important work that justifies re-funding the Department of Health's Vector Control Branch. We support Legislative action to accomplish this. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Karen Eoff
Council Member
Council District 8 - North Kona



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

January 29, 2016

Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer
Protection & Health
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Vice Chair
415 South Beretania Street
State Capitol, Conference Room 229
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Email: CPHtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: senbaker@capitol.hawaii.gov
Email: senkidani@capitol.hawaii.gov

Re: Testimony In Support of SB2240; Making an Appropriation to the
Department of Health to Reestablish a Vector Control Branch
Hearing Date: February 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m., Conference Room 229

Dear Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection & Health:

On behalf of myself and constituents of Council District 8, North Kona, support for the above referenced bill is hereby expressed, with brief testimony provided as follows:

An appropriation to the Department of Health to hire of vector control employees and to re-establish a vector control branch is necessary. Controlling the spread of disease from animals, rodents and insects is imperative to the health and welfare of Hawai'i Island.

The Dengue Fever outbreak necessitates this appropriation.

I strongly urge enactment of this bill.

Sincerely,

KAREN EOFF, Vice Chair,
Council District 8, North Kona

KE.wpb

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: nelsoncraige@netscape.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:54:37 AM

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Craig Nelson	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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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: soysprout@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:21:57 AM

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia King	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Vector Control branch of HDOH played an essential role in protecting public health in Hawaii. Without the specialized expertise that branch housed, we are at a great loss to battle known public health threats like dengue, as well as emerging threats like the Zika virus. Hawaii, fortunately and unfortunately, is a gateway to the west coast and the Pacific, a place where both *A. aegypti* and *A. albopictus* are common, and hosts a diverse community which draws visitors and residents from all over the world.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: jgraham3154@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM*
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:38:06 AM

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason Graham	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: joshuapatwood@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 02, 2016 9:09:06 PM

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/2/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Josh Atwood	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please consider this measure to re-establish a portion of the Vector Control Branch at the Hawaii Department of Health. In addition to Vector Control Workers, program managers are needed to develop strategic plans and direct operations to combat disease vectors. With a broad distribution of mosquitoes capable of carrying dengue, zika, and other illnesses, it is critically important to provide vector control as a public service.

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Support for SB2240

My name is Michael Markrich and I speak as a concerned citizen who has been following the outbreak of mosquito borne diseases such as Dengue Fever, Chikungunya and Zika for a several years.

Hawaii faces the largest out break of mosquito borne disease since World War II. We once had protection against Aedes Aegypti, the main carrier of Dengue outbreaks. It was all but wiped out in Hawaii until 2012.

In the 1943-1944 outbreak there were 1500 known cases of Dengue Fever outbreak. By comparison the last major outbreak in 2001 (mostly on Maui) had 122 confirmed cases, and 1,644 symptomatic cases. At the present time, we have 237 cases confirmed on the Island of Hawai'i and no end in sight.

Accepting the presence of Dengue means being worried all the time in your house that you may get bitten while you sleep. It causes severe pain and sometimes death. It disproportionately affects children, the elderly and those with chronic conditions. There is no cure.

What kept Hawaii safe in earlier years was a dedicated Hawaii State Department of Health Vector Control Branch, which dated back to the days of the Territory. At its peak in 2009 it had 56 staff on all the islands and was able to do surveillance and organized, strategic insect spraying. In 2009, during the recession, Governor Linda Lingle cut the number of staff to 17 and got rid of the entire Branch. The remaining workers put into another office, did what they could, but instead of being able to lay 200 mosquito traps per year at all the airports, ports and places of entry as they had for many years, were limited to only 20 Statewide! Lost also were the years of institutional knowledge of where the mosquitoes breed and how to stop them.

If Hawaii is to be able to cope with this new international threat of mosquito borne viruses we must restore the Vector Control Branch. Half-measures and PR campaigns won't win the battle against mosquito borne disease

As threats to the health and safety of Hawaii people mount this needs to be made a priority. If we do not act quickly, Hawaii will never be the same. I urge you to please support SB2240.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [CPH Testimony](#)
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2240 on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Wednesday, February 03, 2016 8:17:05 AM

SB2240

Submitted on: 2/3/2016

Testimony for CPH on Feb 4, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments: There is a very narrow window of opportunity during which we find we can contain and eradicate invasive species. When the invader is a disease spread by a vector that is itself already widespread, that window is even smaller. Your support for a strong appropriation, that looks not only at immediate, but long term structural needs for the state's public and environmental health management, is greatly appreciated. Mahalo.

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