

**LATE**

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**HB1006**

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for WAM on Mar 30, 2017 13:40PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: BIISC thanks you for your your attention to invasive species issues during this legislative session, and asks for your support for HB1006, which will provide funding to the Hawaii Ant Lab for further research on little fire ant and other dangerous invasive ant species which may reach Hawaii. Since May of 2016, BIISC has offered a community support program to educate and train Big Island residents in control of LFA, with close to 1,000 attendees to date. Our training is targeted at the community level to encourage neighbors to work together and mobilize one another. The research generated by the Hawaii Ant Lab is integral to our ability to empower residents to act. HAL has developed effective, safe, and easy-to-use treatments that the community can embrace and use. With the retirement of Dr. Arnold Hara at the UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR), HAL is now the only active body here in Hawaii generating new research on control of fire ants. While dealing with the impacts of the little fire ant (LFA) we also fear the importation of the deadly Red Imported Fire Ant (RIFA), which is spreading across the world. We ask for your continued support for HAL's dedicated and experienced researchers who address current and future invasions of stinging ants. Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments, and do not hesitate to contact us for more information.

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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