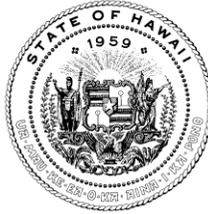


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019
10:20 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1548, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

House Bill 1548, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds for research, surveys, and outreach for Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death (ROD) threatens Hawaii's most important tree species that makes up 80% of the remaining native Hawaiian forests. It is caused by two recently arrived fungal species detected in 2014 and named and described by scientists in 2018.

On Hawaii island, approximately 135,000 acres are currently affected by ROD with some stands seeing over 90% mortality. Much of that area has lower levels of mortality and the Department is working with other agencies to contain new outbreaks and protect remaining healthy forests. Both fungal pathogens causing ROD have now been detected on the island of Kauai as of 2018, requiring additional resources to respond there. The islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai, and Oahu still have no ROD detections, and statewide surveys are conducted two times a year to find new outbreaks before the disease is widely established.

In addition to survey and response, funding is needed for forest pathology research, disease diagnostics, monitoring using remote sensing techniques, removal of hooved animals from fenced areas to prevent additional ROD infections, and public outreach to inform communities what they can do to prevent the spread of ROD. Funds appropriated to the Department's budget for ROD in FY19 were used to leverage approximately \$1,000,000 in federal, private, and other funds.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

The Department looks forward to working with the Legislature as well as federal and private funders to ensure that the statewide multi-agency ROD response receives the support it needs to succeed.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**APRIL 3, 2019
10:20 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1548 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1548 HD1 SD1 relating to rapid ohia death. The bill appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to study and combat rapid ohia death (ROD). The Department supports this bill.

Funding for combatting invasive species such as rapid ohia death is critical to ensure appropriate responses can be implemented and maintained. Providing additional funds to DLNR for continued support in combating ROD is critical and much needed. The Department supports the many efforts in researching and mitigating ROD throughout the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



County of Hawai'i
Council District 9 -
North and South Kohala



Phone: (808) 961-8564
(808) 887-2069

Email: tim.richards@hawaiiicounty.gov

Chair: Committee on Agriculture,
Water, Energy, and Environmental
Management

Vice Chair: Committee on Finance

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 9
25 Aupuni Street, Ste. 1402, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

April 1, 2019

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Honorable Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Submission via online testimony

RE: **Support of HB 1548, HD1, SD1**

Hearing Date/Time: April 3, 2019 at 10:20 a.m.

Dear Senators:

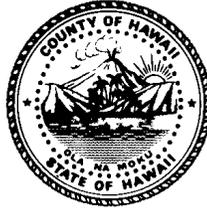
As the Chair of the Committee on Agriculture, Water, Energy, and Environmental Management for the Hawai'i County Council, I thank you for the opportunity to submit **testimony in SUPPORT of HB 1548, HD1, SD1**. With the risk of losing our watersheds, it is critical that funds be appropriated to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the continued combat of Rapid 'Ohia Death throughout the entire State of Hawai'i.

Please feel free to contact me should you need to discuss my position and knowledge of this matter further.

Sincerely,

HERBERT M. "TIM" RICHARDS, III
Hawai'i County Council, District 9

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

April 1, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1548, HD1, SD1 Relating to Rapid Ohia Death

Even though the fungus has spread beyond the Big Island, the initial shock of the discovery of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) has passed, and therefore the media has largely moved on. But the devastation of ROD and the loss of Ohia in Hawai'i should not be ignored. Therefore, I am grateful to all of you for keeping this issue alive at the Legislature and furthering the battle to defeat this terrible scourge.

I will defer to the scientists as to how much funding can be productively used, and simply urge that there be sufficient money allotted to find a ROD cure, or at least treatment.

Please approve funding to combat ROD with a favorable vote on HB 1548, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR

HB-1548-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 7:00:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Testifying for Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

April 3, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

TESTIMONY ON HB 1548, HD1, SD1
RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Room 211
10:20 AM

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 1548, HD1, SD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to combat rapid ohia death in the State.

Watersheds are the lifeblood of our communities. It is important not just to agriculture but to our social and environmental health. The spread of rapid ohia death has been alarming and its' management before spreading to other islands is very critical. Many of the other islands depend on surface water for their drinking and irrigation needs. Loss of trees will severely impact watersheds.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting HB 1548 HD1 SD1 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Wednesday, April 3, 2019, 10:20 AM, Room 211

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy strongly supports HB 1548 HD1 SD1 proposing to provide additional funding to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to address Rapid Ōhia Death.

We appreciate the crisis situation that exists with respect to Rapid Ōhia Death as well as other pests of the environment, agriculture, and human health and well-being. We support a strong and coordinated response to this disease that is threatening the dominant native tree species in the Hawaiian forest—a tree that is central to the forests' ecological, cultural and watershed values statewide.

We also hope that providing the necessary and critical support for addressing Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death will continue to be additive. We are concerned about unintended financial impacts of a piecemeal approach to invasive species funding. For example, in Fiscal Year 2007 the Legislature's provision of specific funding for coqui frog control was really a shifting of existing funds from other important invasive species programs, which then caused layoffs in the Island Invasive Species Committees and a hiatus in the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council's research grant program.

The [Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan](#)—prepared by the Department of Agriculture with the support of its many government and non-government partners—addresses the full range of invasive species prevention, early detection, rapid response, control, research, and outreach priorities across the state. Beyond this bill's additive funding, we encourage the Legislature, the Administration and partners to enhance our collective attention and funding applied to the full range of pest issues across the islands as outlined in the comprehensive Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

J. B. Friday
1416 Kilikina St.
Hilo, HI 96720 USA
April 2, 2019
808-935-2331

Testimony on HB1548 HD1 SD1 Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death

Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha Senators Dela Cruz, Keith-Agaran, and committee members,

I am writing in support of HB1548 HD1 SD1, Relating to Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. I am a professional forester employed by the University of Hawai'i, but this letter is my personal testimony and does not reflect the official University position.

I have been working on discovering what causes and spreads Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death since 2012, long before we identified the pathogens. In that relatively short time, we have come a long way. We know what the pathogens are. We know several ways they spread. We know a lot about what forests are more likely to become infected and which are relatively safe. We have found that there is some resistance to the disease in at least some native varieties of 'ōhi'a. Because of our outreach efforts, more than half of the state's population, even urban dwellers, know about Rapid 'Ōhi'a Death. I believe that because of our management efforts on the ground the disease is spreading more slowly than it would have otherwise, but the recent detections on Kaua'i have proved that it is still spreading.

There is still much we need to know to improve our management. Can we prevent beetles from attacking infected trees and spreading the disease? Can we protect individual trees with injections of fungicide so that they will not become infected with the fungus? Can we treat wood posts and firewood so they are free of viable fungus? Are there enough resistant 'ōhi'a out there so that we can start developing resistant lines of the species for reforestation? The answer to each of these questions lies in more studies in the lab and in the field, but the answers are needed to guide management in the future.

Thank you for our past support and I urge you to continue to support efforts to fight ROD and protect our 'ōhi'a forests.

Aloha,

J. B. Friday, PhD

LATE

HB-1548-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 3:11:39 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:20:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB1548. The ohia tree is an important player in Hawaii's fragile ecosystem.

Due to habitat loss and degradation, as well as invasive species, Hawaii is known as the "endangered species capital of the world." Protecting the ohia tree is a step in the right direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei