

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

March 19, 2015
8:30 A.M.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 183
and
HOUSE RESOLUTION 121

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

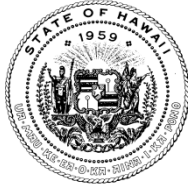
Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 183 and House Resolution 121 requesting the Department of Agriculture to convene a task force to examine the feasibility of transferring the Plant Quarantine Branch from the Department of Agriculture to the Department of Transportation. The Department has reservations about this measure.

While one of the major functions of the Plant Quarantine Branch is to monitor ports of entry to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Hawaii, this is not the only responsibility of the Branch. Other duties that are not conducted at ports of entry include: administering permits for the import of plants, animals, and microorganisms, responding to reports of illegal animals, and participating in the eradication and mitigation of existing invasive species in Hawaii. Furthermore, many of these duties require interaction with other branches within the Department including the Plant, Pest Control Branch and the Animal Industry Division; as such, having the Plant Quarantine Branch within the Department of Agriculture helps to increase efficiencies and strengthen working relationships.



The Department would also defer to the Department of Transportation as to whether the Federal Aviation Administration would view agricultural inspections as falling within their purview.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Testimony of
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE T. BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

March 19, 2013
8:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 312

HR 121/HCR 183
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A TASK
FORCE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING THE PLANT
QUARANTINE BRANCH FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION.

House Committee on Agriculture

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **opposes** these resolutions, which proposes to convene a task force to examine the feasibility of transferring the plant quarantine branch from the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to the Department of Transportation.

Pursuant to HRS §26-19, the DOT's mission is to establish, maintain, and operate transportation facilities of the State including highways, airports, harbors, and other transportation facilities and activities. As the resolutions suggest, the DOT should increase its focus on modernizing its facilities, ensure conservative planning of its finances, and execute projects in an efficient and effective manner. However, the mission of the Department of Agriculture's Plant Quarantine Program is to prevent the introduction and spread of harmful pests and diseases into the state, as well as certifying plants for export out of the state.

The mission of the DOT and the Plant Quarantine Program are divergently different. These resolutions will divert the DOT's focus from improving and modernizing its airports and harbors facilities into an area in which the department has no expertise, personnel and/or knowledge.

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has determined the use of airport revenue to fund DOA functions would represent a capital or operating cost to the airports. Restrictions on revenue use are explicit in the Grant Assurances, the law and, as more fully explained, in the revenue use policy. Therefore, the use of airport revenue to fund DOA functions would represent a prohibited use of airport revenue under US Code 47107(b) and 47133 which would violate Grant Assurances and place the DOT in noncompliance for revenue diversion which could jeopardize eligibility for federal funds.

Furthermore and for clarification, the FAA has not mandated the DOT to reduce or eliminate the introduction of invasive species at state airports, as stated in the WHEREAS section of the resolutions.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.