

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Nancy <nancyj.1040@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 5:17 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Nancy Jones

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Dyson Chee <cheedyson@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 7:26 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

My name is Dyson Chee, and I am a 21 year old resident of Ala Moana.

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

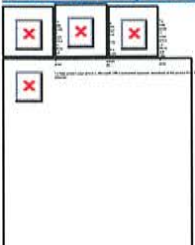
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I personally have been bitten by LFAs, and unlike the proposal in agenda item IV.3, they are no joke. Additionally, beyond my own painful experience, this is an issue that affects our entire community, and I urge you to vote in the interest of the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.
Dyson Chee

Dyson Chee
Club Network Director
The Hawai'i Youth Climate Coalition
www.thehycc.org



Ho, Jonathan K

From: Schyler Stewart <tutusky2013@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 9:28 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Regulating the movement of pests in plants throughout our Aina.

To Whom It May Concern:

Please take seriously the concern of spreading invasive pests throughout our state.

I have heard the noise Coqui Frogs make on Hawaii Island. The residents there have become immune to the sounds. It is scary.

Little Fire Ants are spreading in my neighborhood, and some residents believe it has been brought over through plants from Hawaii Island.

I have a big yard and my Grandchildren love to run and play volleyball and many other games in my yard. Please do not force them indoors because my yard might be infested with little fire ants.

Please take into consideration the residents of this land, and not side with businesses, and do regulate the movement of inter-island plants.

My neighborhood is very concerned about these invasive pests. Please, please, please take seriously the damage that could be done if we all are not vigilant in keeping these pests out of our land. Require treatment, require inspections, help us in our effort to keep our Land beautiful, lush, and full of Aloha.

Respectfully,

Schyler Ann Stewart. 808-372-4707. 47-751. Ahuimanu. Loop

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Johanna (Pomai) Stone <jstone@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, November 16, 2023 10:20 PM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests!

Aloha mai kākou!

Reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse. It is our collective responsibility to uphold our ecosystems and it is your responsibility to take action in behalf of the collective whereas that is why it is called public SERVICE. Take the actions that we are calling upon you to take, this is the bare MINIMUM.

--

..me ke lau no ke Ko'olau ke aloha:
Johanna Kapōmaika'i Stone
Kumu A'o: Instructor
Kawaihuelani, Center for Hawaiian Language
UH Mānoa

Ho, Jonathan K

From: Brian Hauk <brianhauk76@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 17, 2023 10:56 AM
To: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY on IV.3: Please protect our ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from invasive pests

Dear Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals,

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

My personal pets (dog) now have reduced vision from LFA stings to her eye. My children and myself have been stung and our neighborhood has taken it upon themselves through community driven efforts to combat these pest. Any efforts you can contribute to this cause are much appreciated.

Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

Brian Hauk, concern citizen



Ka Iwi Coalition

Mauka to Makai



2023

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November 16, 2023

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Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, community organization serving East Honolulu since 2004. We strive to promote sensible growth, respect for cultural & natural resources, and upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan.

Hawaii Department of Agriculture
Advisory Committee on Plants and Animals
Meeting on November 17, 2023 at 1:30 p.m.
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room & Videoconference

RE: OPPOSING ITEM IV.3 Proposed Amendments to HAR 4-72

Aloha Chair Rogg and Advisory Committee Members,

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui respectfully urges your committee to REJECT the proposal in agenda item IV.3. As drafted, these amendments fail to address the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

As a conservation-oriented nonprofit focused on natural and cultural resources, the Hui is extremely concerned by this issue and the proposed solution, or rather lack thereof. The entirety of our work is driven by and dependent upon support for mālama 'āina principles. Protection against invasive pests is a high priority, whether at our agricultural lands in Kamilonui Valley, the Ka Iwi Mauka Lands, Kalapa o Maua (Paikō Ridge), Keawāwa Wetland, or any of the precious ecosystems we see in our area of Maunaloa and East Honolulu.

While making permanent your interim prohibition on the inter-island movement of CRB is an important step, this can already be done by the rules you approved 8 months ago, which would also critically allow the department to prevent infested plants, soil, and

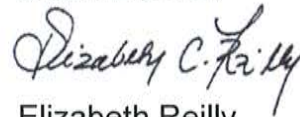
other garden and nursery products from being sold within an island, and to require that those commodities be treated before they can be sold or moved.

Please tell the Department of Agriculture to instead follow through on your February approval of rules that would help rein in rogue businesses that continue to sell products they know are infested with the LFA and CRB. It has been eight months and no public hearing has been held; meanwhile, every day the problem (and the costs of controlling new infestations) may grow exponentially worse.

Again, please REJECT the proposal in agenda item IV.3 and stick with your earlier decision. We must all come together to address these serious issues before they spiral out of control, and if that sounds alarmist, it's only because alarms are indeed ringing.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this important matter.

Mālama pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth C. Reilly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Reilly
Founder/President

TESTIMONY

For HAR Ch 72 Rule Change

“Plant and Non-Domestic Animal Quarantine Plant Intrastate Rules”

Board of Agriculture

16 November, 2023

Testimony in OPPOSITION of the currently proposed HAR Chapter 72 rule changes

The objective of Hawaii Revised Statute Ch 72 states

It's well known that Ch 72 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes is the governing document for how the movement of pests, and other invasive species, is regulated in Hawaii. The HDOA is the sole regulatory authority with the power to effectively stop the importation, distribution, and spread of plants, animals, and microorganisms that pose a threat to Hawaii's agricultural industry and forest ecosystems.

In February, 2023 the HDOA submitted recommended revisions to CH 72 intending to close loopholes that have contributed to the spread of invasive species throughout the state. These suggested revisions were heard and approved, without objection, by the Board of Agriculture and Small Business Regulatory Review Board in February of this year. The next step was for a public hearing however, staff turnover within HDOA halted the process and new staff sought to undo the progress that had been made.

I can't say the original revisions were perfect, but it was clear that they were a genuine attempt to address the issue of invasive species more broadly, by eliminating language that has historically "pigeon holed" HDOA and provided excuses for inaction. For example, previous revisions expanded inspection authority to any pest host material, not just "commodities" as stipulated in the current rule change version. In 2014 Little Fire Ants were transported from Hawaii Island to Oahu and Maui on cut hapuu logs. These logs are not considered "commodities" but are in fact host material. Similarly, the recent detection of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle larvae on Maui in bagged compost would fall outside HDOA's authoritative jurisdiction for regulation. In this instance, the larvae were found dead, but what about the next time? It's uncertain how the new CRB infestations on Kauai and Hawaii Islands, detected within the past few months, arrived on island. Did it arrive on infested commodities or other host material? Such questions are impossible to answer after the fact and it's imperative that as many pathways as possible are shut down, not only for CRB host material, but also for LFA host material and that of other invasive species.

I do agree that interisland transport of pests/invasive species should be prohibited, but for ALL listed pests/invasive species and on ALL host material. This is absolutely essential. But, the biggest and possibly most egregious change to the original revisions previously approved of by the Board of Agriculture, is the omission of the prohibition of INTRAisland movement of infested host material. How

does anyone expect to control the spread of pests/invasive species when the sole regulatory authority allows the unobstructed spread on island? If a target species of concern or new detection is discovered on an island, what's the justification of eradication efforts if on island movement is allowed without repercussions? What's the prognosis for an island or industry without on island regulation?

Unfortunately we only have to look towards Hawaii Island and the LFA situation to answer the last question. The unregulated spread of LFA across Hawaii Island has led to interisland transport and invasion of Maui, Oahu, and Kauai. We know, for FACT that non-commodities (such as non-propagative hapuu logs) are a significant pathway that bypasses HDOA authority outlined in the current Ch 72 and the current proposed version. The unregulated spread of LFA across Hawaii Island has led to significant increases in operating expenses for tropical fruit growers and commercial nurseries as well as shortages of agriculture workers due to the risks of being stung while managing fields. This is the future of Maui, Oahu, and Kauai without a prohibition of on-island movement of infested host material. Additionally, pests/invasive species don't adhere to land use boarders. Many ag pests affect residents, personally. There's no better example of this than LFA.

I won't pretend to believe that the previous version of Ch 72 rule changes are perfect. As much as I am a proponent for inter- and inraisland prohibitions, I fully understand the implications. Statues and rules affect the entire state, not just one island or another and a significant proportion of Hawaii's agriculture and horticulture industry is on Hawaii Island. A strict inraisland ban on movement of pests/invasive species, would hamper many Hawaii Island nurseries while protecting uninfested agriculture, horticulture, forest, and residential lands throughout the state. There will undoubtedly be negative repercussions for some businesses who've operated without accountability for decades. Some of these businesses have been forced into inaction due to lack of government support while others have received ample support and willfully CHOOSE to be negligent repeat offenders.

An inraisland prohibition would also increase the workload for HDOA staff tasked with enforcing quarantines and it's well known HDOA is grossly understaffed. But I don't see these things as much as obstacles as they are opportunity. Opportunity to increase capacity and efficacy of HDOA in their duty to protect Hawaii of pests and invasive species. Opportunity to develop pest management support programs for the agriculture industry that is long overdue. Opportunity to slow invasions across the state. Opportunity to ACT instead of shrug our shoulders.

I'm writing this testimony as a private citizen but I've worked for Hawaii Ant Lab for 12 years. Our mission is to ACT and provide support however and whenever possible. I have personally watched as HDOA refused to act more often than they have been willing to take action. Rarely have I seen HDOA use regulatory authority and even then it was typically due to significant public pressure. More often I've seen HDOA shrug their shoulders and point to loopholes in the Hawaii Revised Statutes to justify inaction. The current Ch 72 revisions will absolutely perpetuate this bad habit and I can't help but suspect this is intentionally negligent.

As I've already mentioned, the previously accepted Ch 72 revisions are not perfect, but they are far more likely to be improved upon than the current version. The currently proposed revisions provide opportunity for regulatory laziness while the previous version would require solutions for support of infested industry while reducing the risk for the rest of Hawaii.

The choice is clear, in my opinion. Inraisland and host material (rather than "commodities") prohibitions are non-negotiable if the future of Hawaii is concerned.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will do the right thing for ALL of Hawaii rather than a select, narrow, demographic.

Michelle Montgomery

E-mail: HDOA.PQ.TESTIMONY@HAWAII.GOV

Re: TESTIMONY on IV.3

Aloha, Chair Rogg and Members of the Advisory Committee on Plants & Animals

My name is Deborah Ward. I graduated from UH Manoa in horticulture and served as CTAHR Extension educator for 23 years before becoming a full-time farmer. I grow `ulu, kalo, `ohi`a ai (mountain apple), mai`a (banana), citrus and many other fruits and vegetables, and I market them to local families .

During this time farming, I have suffered (economically and physically) from introduced invasive insects and decimating diseases, all introduced from the continents or other islands. A sample of a very long list affecting my farm in Mountain View on East Hawai`i include:

Little fire ants

Queensland longhorn beetle

Coconut rhinoceros beetle,

Banana bunchy top virus

Avocado lace bug

Stinging Nettle bug

Papaya Ringspot Virus

Phytophthora fungus on kalo

Erisiniae fungus on citrus

Plumeria longhorn beetle

Rapid `ohi`a death (ROD)

Coqui frogs, mongooses, (tree snakes are next?)

Madagascar day gecko, Jackson's chameleon, semislugs that confer rat lungworm disease

Gall wasp wiped Erythrina windbreaks and native wiliwili

Hundreds of feral pigs, ruining newly planted trees and fields

Miconia, Albezzia, Clidemia, and dozens of other new weed pests

The list goes on!

I have lost unique cultivars of Hawaiian banana, my best papaya cultivars, several citrus trees to the longhorn beetle, and can no longer be certified as an organic grower if I use recommended chemicals to control fire ants and banana bunchy top virus. I have applied for NRCS grants, but none of them will help me fence my property from pigs, and will not fund little fire ant (LFA) control, for example.

My experience is not unique, and as a retired extension agent, I can attest to the very wide range of issues that have result of lack of inspection and enforcement of imported plants, and inadvertent importation of associated diseases, pests and weeds.

The demands of the landscape industry to import and transport new plants must be countered with the devastating consequences all producers have to contend with once a pest has been naturalized and is deemed out of control. It seems like the island of Hawaii is consistently ignored until the problem has gotten far beyond control, and then when an outbreak occurs on another island a rapid response is attempted. You cannot expect farmers to deal with all the new and impending challenges, and still increase food security and sustainability.

Please reject the proposal in agenda item IV.3, to turn a blind eye to the intra-island sale of merchandise infested with little fire ants (LFA), coconut rhinoceros beetles (CRB), hala scale, and other pests that could threaten our islands' food security, native ecosystems, cultural practices, economy and quality of life.

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Mahalo nui for your consideration of this testimony.

A hui hou,

Deborah Ward
Laiku Farm
P.O. Box 918
Kurtistown HI 96760