



P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837-0158
Phone: 927-0709 henry.lifeoftheland@gmail.com

Board of Agriculture
Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024
Time: 9am
Place: Plant Quarantine Branch,
1849 Auiki Street, Honolulu, 96819

hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov

Subject: Testimony for Agenda Item IV.B:

Dear Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

Life of the Land is Hawai'i's own energy, environmental and community action group advocating for the people and `aina for 54 years. Our mission is to preserve and protect the life of the land through sound energy and land use policies and to promote open government through research, education, advocacy and, when necessary, litigation.

Life of the Land urges swift adoption of the proposed amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72, which would provide desperately needed regulatory tools.

Mahalo

Henry Curtis, Executive Director
Hawaii Revised Statutes



[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates

From amy@muramatsu.com <amy@muramatsu.com>
Date Sun 9/1/2024 9:26 PM
To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Amy Muramatsu from Makawao, Maui. Thank you for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plans. These updates are appreciated but do not reflect the urgency communities feel while keiki, kūpuna, and pets are experiencing painful bites and niu and crops are being decimated.

It has been 18 months since amendments to HAR Chapter 4-72 were first proposed to establish intra- and inter-island quarantines for pest-infested plants and materials, and 7 months since the public hearing was held. This delay is unacceptable.

These quarantine rules are crucial in the all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, to new areas and on new islands. Nurseries, landscapers and suppliers of soil and compost are significant vectors for the spread of these pests, including into regions where they had been previously eradicated.

Therefore, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to bring the proposed quarantine rule amendments for review and approval at your next meeting. We urgently need these long-overdue regulatory tools, to prevent more costly damage, and to ensure that our community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.
Amy Muramatsu
84 Ala Apapa Place
Makawao, HI 96768



Outlook

[EXTERNAL] Written Testimony in Support of Testing Inter and Intra Island Plant and Animal Shipments

From baldev singh <baldevsingh@hotmail.com>

Date Thu 10/17/2024 7:34 PM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha I am a Maui Resident and want to express my strong support for testing above referenced shipments for invasive species. Prevention is much cheaper than the cure which is not assured. Mahalo.

Baldev Singh, PhD, R(B)

Broker

Coldwell Banker Island Properties (L)

808-280-5862

baldevsingh@hotmail.com

October 18, 2024

Hawaii Board of Agriculture
Plant Quarantine Branch Conference Room
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819



RE: Oct 22 Meeting Agenda Item IV B - Proposed Changes to Hawaii Administrative Rules,
Ch 4-72

Aloha,

I am writing to express the support of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee for the proposed changes to HAR Ch. 72. As a resident of an island which has for many years experienced the worst and most widespread impacts of invasive species, I am only too familiar with the significant negative consequences of introduced pests spreading beyond the point of control.

We previously submitted testimony to the Plant & Animal Committee in January of 2024 to support these changes. At that time, there had been only one detection of CRB larvae on the Big Island. Since then, 5 adult CRB have been found, and as of last week, BIISC has confirmed CRB damage to palms in the Waikoloa area. We believe that CRB eradication is still fully possible on our island, but an additional introduction to another part of the island could make the difference between eradication and CRB infestation of Hawai'i Island becoming an inevitability. Although the recently passed interim rule is helpful in decreasing the risk of beetles moving off of Oahu, the proposed Ch 4-72 rules will restart the much more comprehensive CRB prevention compliance agreement program, and will bring the assurance that the regulations will not expire - again - in one year.

We urge the Board to accept the changes and move quickly to ensure they are enacted. The updated HAR Ch.72 would allow for HDOA to undertake important actions essential to ensuring that CRB does not spread on Hawai'i Island and join the cadre of other pests, like little fire ant and coqui, that have become an unfortunate part of life here. These rules can also strengthen the Department's ability to stop the possible movement from the Big Island of highly destructive pests like Queensland longhorn beetle and two-lined spittlebug.

HAR Ch 72 is just one step on the road to improving Hawaii's biosecurity, but it is a critical step and the sooner taken, the better.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Franny Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu



[EXTERNAL] Testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item B-1, October 22

From Boisvert-Jorgensen <infofordenise@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 10/17/2024 4:22 PM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha,

This is testimony in SUPPORT of Agenda Item B-1, Proposed Amendments to Chapter 4-72, for the hearing on Tuesday, October 22.

Most of the islands are already dealing several types of 'invited and uninvited' invasive species who are enjoying life in Hawaii Nei, **so wouldn't *FINALLY* making these urgently-needed proposed amendments into permanent rules BE A NO-BRAINER??**

Thank you for your kind consideration of protecting the environment,
Denise Boisvert
Honolulu



[EXTERNAL] Request to Adopt the proposed rule amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72

From Cindi <cgpunihaole@gmail.com>

Date Fri 10/18/2024 2:56 PM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Dear Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

I urge you to adopt the proposed amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72. These practical amendments would empower the Department of Agriculture to take necessary actions to control and eradicate invasive species. The amendments would establish inter- and intra-island quarantine measures to prevent the further spread of invasive pests, authorize compliance agreements for businesses, and allow the Department of Agriculture to respond more swiftly to legally prevent the sale of certain invasive species and infested commodities.

I respectfully urge the Board to adopt the proposed rule amendments.

Mahalo nui for your kind consideration.

Cynthia Punihaole Kennedy
North Kona, Hawai'i Island



[EXTERNAL] We don't want fire ants or any invasive species on Maui!!

From funkybuddha <markklemen@gmail.com>

Date Fri 10/18/2024 9:02 AM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

ATTN-

Board of Agriculture Meeting

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 In-Person: Plant Quarantine Branch

Please enact all necessary protections to keep fire ants, rhinoceros beetles etc etc from invading our beautiful island!!

We have recently been to the Big Island and fire ants are a menace! Imagine not being able to sit on the grass- or being able to allow your pets to go on the grass! Its terrible and we do not want it on Maui!!

We need to take all necessary steps to prevent invasive species from coming to Maui!

Mahalo :)

- Mark Klemen and Kirstie Carlson and Ohana
Kula, Maui

Aloha Chair Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

Please adopt the proposed amendments to Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapter 4-72.

The rules need to be revised as proposed as soon as possible to address current and future crises presented by invasive pests. Coconut rhinoceros beetles and little fire ants are just two current examples of dangerous invasive pests that threaten our signature palm trees, other vegetation, public health, food security and economy. Other invasive pest infestations that we haven't even seen yet are likely to bedevil us in the future. The State needs stronger prevention tools; once an invasive pest becomes established, it becomes much harder and more expensive to treat and may be impossible to eradicate.

The proposed rules would provide the Department of Agriculture with desperately needed regulatory tools to control and eradicate invasive species. These amendments would establish inter- and intra-island quarantine measures to prevent further movement of invasive pests, authorize compliance agreements for businesses, and enable the Department of Agriculture to act much more quickly to legally prevent the sale of certain invasive species and infested commodities.

Please adopt these common sense amendments in the public interest!

Mahalo!

Ted Bohlen



[EXTERNAL] Testimony re: VI.1 Invasive Species Action Plan Updates Sample testimony

From Lucas Costner <costnerluc@gmail.com>

Date Thu 8/29/2024 6:44 AM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

Aloha e Chair Hurd and members of the Board of Agriculture,

My name is Lucas Costner from Honolulu. Thank you again for providing updates on the department's Invasive Species Action Plans. These updates are appreciated but with the rapid spread of invasive pests throughout our islands, the updates do not reflect the level of urgency communities feel while keiki, kūpuna, and pets are experiencing painful bites and niu and other crops are being decimated.

It has been 18 months since amendments to HAR Chapter 4-72 were first proposed to establish intra- and inter-island quarantines for pest-infested plants and materials, and seven months since the public hearing was held. This delay is unacceptable.

These quarantine rules are crucial in the all-hands-on-deck fight against the rapid spread of invasive pests like little fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles, which continue to appear in new areas and on new islands. Businesses such as nurseries and landscapers are significant vectors for the spread of these pests, including into regions where they had been previously eradicated.

Therefore, I respectfully and strongly urge the Board to ensure that the Department brings the proposed quarantine rule amendments for your review and approval at your next meeting. The Department needs these long-overdue regulatory tools to ensure that current and future community efforts to combat invasive pests are not in vain.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Lucas Costner

808-421-8472



[EXTERNAL] October 22, 2024 SUPPORT of Agenda B-1 Proposed Amendments to Chapter 4-72

From Waikiki - Hawaii Condo <hawaiicondo@yahoo.com>

Date Thu 10/17/2024 4:43 PM

To HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY <hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov>

A wise frog (not a coqui) named Kermit once sang, "It's not easy being green". He may have been talking about his looks, but his statement was far-reaching.

It's not enough to recycle and to not waste water in order to try to protect the environment and to fight climate change.

Preventing invasive species from spreading is equally crucial - so it begs the question, "*how difficult is that?*" when all you need to do is pass the long-overdue proposed amendments into permanent rules!

It is very disturbing that certain unnamed plant nurseries put their quest for profit over the safety of the environment by, at the very least, not inspecting their goods; and at the very worst, willfully selling and shipping contaminated products.

What is equally disturbing is the STUNNING amount of time it is taking the state to adopt the proposed amendments to permanently establish inter-and intra-island quarantines and best management practices for invasive pests and infested plants and materials!!

It is very, very late, and long-overdue, but it's better late than ever - so please adopt the proposed amendments to Chapter 4-72 noted in Agenda item B-1.

Mahalo,
Kim Jorgensen
Waikiki