



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Agriculture  
Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at 8:40 a.m.

By

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And

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### HB 1472 – RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support, with a suggested amendment, of HB 1472, which appropriates moneys for research to combat Rapid Ohia Death.

Researchers from state and federal agencies and the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) are working to address the spread and management of this severe plant disease, and drafted the interagency Rapid Ohia Death Strategic Response Plan in November 2016. Their efforts are limited by resources and by the absence of prior information on this devastating and very rapidly spreading forest disease.

We strongly support the intent of HB 1472 to provide continued funding for these research efforts. However, as written the bill appropriates funds to a federal agency, the USDA-ARS Daniel K. Inouye Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center. Since we are not sure that it is feasible for the state legislature to appropriate funds to a federal agency, we suggest that the recipient of this funding be amended to a State of Hawai'i agency, such as the Department of Land and Natural Resources or Department of Agriculture.