HB 1546 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1546 which requires the University of Hawai‘i to develop a plan to be implemented for the state wide eradication of mosquitoes.

To provide you some background, during the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress held in Honolulu, the University of Hawai‘i convened a "To Restore a Mosquito-Free Hawai‘i Workshop" attended by some of the top mosquito researchers worldwide to discuss the feasibility of eradicating three mosquito species from the state. It was determined that by taking a systems thinking approach and addressing all aspects of the biology, ecology, behavior, genetics, etc. of the three mosquito species in question, Aedes aegypti, Aedes albopictus, and Culex quinquefasciatus, eradication of these mosquito species is certainly feasible. It would be possible to bring a few of the Workshop participants back to Hawai‘i to assist in developing a strategic plan for implementing a mosquito eradication program in Hawai‘i.

UH supports HB 1546 as long as it is in addition to the University’s Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.