



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Higher Education
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By

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And

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HB 1546 HD1 – RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Chair Kim, Vice Chair Kidani and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1546 HD1 which requires the University of Hawai'i to develop a plan to be implemented for the statewide eradication of mosquitos.

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 recommends the following amendments:

page 1, line 15-16 - delete "including introducing genetically engineered mosquitos"

page 2, line 19 - delete "genetic"

page 3, line 7. - insert a sum of "\$50,000"

With these amendments, UH supports HB 1546 HD1 as long as it is in addition to the University's Biennium Budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.