Testimony Presented Before the 
Senate Committee on Water and Land and 
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment 
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By 
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HB 1769 HD1 – RELATING TO RAPID OHIA DEATH

Chairs Inouye and Gabbard, Vice-Chairs Keith-Agaran and Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Water and Land and Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1769 HD1 relating to rapid ohia death (ROD).

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has a long and productive history collaborating with the Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the U.S. Forest Service. This cooperation and collaboration have extended to working to combat ROD. The University is a main component of the education/Extension task and has worked toward the objectives defined in the Rapid Ohia Death Part 1: Strategic Response Plan. The University appreciates the budget and the expenditure plan. Since ohia is an iconic plant for the state of Hawai‘i, and because it is the dominant tree throughout most of the state, its salvation benefits much of the Hawai‘i ecosystem.

We strongly support HB 1769 HD1, but defer to DLNR as to the ability to carry out the tasks with the proposed budget. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.