



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

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by

James R. Gaines

Vice President for Research, University of Hawai'i

HB 2775 HD2 – Relating to Agriculture

Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

HB 2775 HD2 establishes fees for the processing of permits and other requests for the importation or possession of incoming plants, animals, and microorganisms into the State. The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of the bill and understands the department's need for additional revenue. UH is willing to pay a reasonable fee only if it leads to faster processing and issuance of importation permits.

The UH believes that increasing revenue is only one way to address budget shortfalls while maintaining an acceptable level of service. The University urges the Department of Agriculture to explore updating administrative rules and increasing the efficiency of the permitting process in order to reduce costs and improve service to the user community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.