



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

And

Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 2016 at 1:45 p.m.

By

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And

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HB 1607 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Wakai and Gabbard, Vice Chairs Slom and Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology and Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture, thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1607, which asks the Department of Agriculture to establish a little fire ant Pesticide Treatment Coupon Pilot Project for Hawai'i County, and a site map of little fire ant infestations on the Island of Hawai'i, and appropriates funds for these purposes.

HB 1607 points out the problem of people “left behind” in the wake of an invasive pest moving across the State, and offers a creative approach to assist them, and to collect current information on the distribution of that pest. Involvement of the public in efforts to control invasive species, given the limited resources available to government agencies, is a useful approach, and the pilot project could create a model for management of other persistent invasive species in the state.

We defer to the Department of Agriculture on fiscal and management implications of HB 1607, but we support the intent of the bill to involve the public in efforts to control invasive pests.