HB 3335
RELATING TO PLANT AND NON-DOMESTIC ANIMAL QUARANTINE

House Committee on Agriculture

Public Hearing - February 15, 1996
8:30 A.M., Room 423, State Capitol

By

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HB 3335 would amend Chapter 150A, HRS, to provide authority for assessing fees for import permits, to provide exemptions for algae, bacteria, and fungi used for food preparation, to provide clarification of the meaning and applicability of importation in the context of the statute, to clarify entry status of biocontrol containment facilities, and to provide exemptions for unlisted animals under short term permits.

Our statement on this measure has been compiled from voluntarily submitted opinions of the listed academic reviewers and as such does not constitute an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

Amendments proposed in this measure largely serve to clarify the intent and specificity of existing provisions, or to implement new provisions which have been considered and approved by the Plant and Animal Advisory Committee. We generally concur with the intent of the measure. However, we have for some time harbored concerns regarding other provisions of Chapter 150A, and while we recognize that this measure doesn’t address these concerns, it seems appropriate to take the opportunity to direct the legislature’s attention to the present inadequacy of listing procedures established under §150A-6 (b). We are aware, for example, of numerous examples of inappropriately included species on these lists, and no lists of prohibited and restricted plants even exists, despite the provisions of §150A-6 (c). Furthermore, the statute makes no provision whatsoever for development of a list of conditionally approved plants. Given the extremity of Hawaii’s alien species crisis, such omissions would appear grossly negligent.