

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

HONOLULU

July 10, 2007

STATEMENT OF OBJECTIONS TO SENATE BILL NO. 1066

Honorable Members
Twenty-Fourth Legislature
State of Hawaii

Pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, I am returning herewith, without my approval, Senate Bill No. 1066, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Invasive Species."

The purposes of this bill are to establish a special fund for invasive species inspection, quarantine, eradication, and monitoring programs and to impose a fee for the inspection, quarantine, and eradication of invasive species contained in any marine commercial container shipment, foreign or domestic, that is brought into the State, computed on a basis of \$1 for each twenty-foot equivalent unit per container.

The goal to enhance inspections for invasive species is laudable. However the bill is objectionable because it creates a context in which out-of-state fees could be imposed on Hawaii shippers.

Currently the State of California is considering placing a surcharge fee on all containers leaving its ports. The proposed fee would be substantial -- \$30 per container, per movement into and out of California. The majority of Hawaii's goods are shipped out of Oakland and Long Beach ports and return to California. This would result in an estimated \$45.2 million more per year to Hawaii consumers to ship basic essentials into our State. Passage of this bill would make it difficult to defend against efforts by other jurisdictions to impose their state-mandated fees on the containers coming into Hawaii.

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This measure would undermine our efforts to persuade the California State Assembly and members of the United States Congress that state-imposed fees should not be imposed on containers moving in interstate commerce.

The Department of Agriculture presently conducts inspections of goods shipped into Hawaii for invasive species. The amount of \$7,600,000 in general funds has been budgeted for fiscal year 2007-2008, and a similar amount for fiscal year 2008-2009, for the Plant, Pest, and Disease Control program to carry out program activities, including inspection for invasive species.

For the foregoing reasons, I am returning Senate Bill No. 1066 without my approval.

Respectfully,



LINDA LINGLE
Governor of Hawaii