



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

July 9, 2008

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Madam President and Members of the Senate:

Re: Senate Bill No. 2850 SD2 HD2 CD1

On July 8, 2008, Senate Bill No. 2850, entitled "A Bill for an Act Relating to Biosecurity" became law without my signature, pursuant to Section 16 of Article III of the State Constitution.

The purpose of this bill is to codify the Department of Agriculture's biosecurity program and to authorize the Department to require cargo carriers to prepare and submit manifests for cargo transported into the State or between the islands. Specifically, this biosecurity program will be funded through a \$250,000 general fund appropriation and a \$6,000,000 appropriation from the Department's pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund.

I vetoed House Bill No. 2843 on the basis that it would increase Hawaii's already high cost of living by imposing another fee on goods coming into Hawaii. This bill raises concerns because it would have authorized the Department of Agriculture to spend a portion of these funds and also appropriates an additional \$250,000 in general funds outside of the six-year balanced budget plan.

Although the codification of the Department's biosecurity program is acceptable, it should be noted that the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Land and Natural Resources, through the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, already perform many of the activities and functions prescribed by this measure. It is important to recognize that the State budget for the Department of Agriculture's plant, pest, and disease control program has doubled from \$5.5 million to over \$11 million within the last four years.

Although I have concerns with the funding mechanisms provided, this bill recognizes the Department of Agriculture's ongoing efforts to reduce the number of invasive species that enter our state. This bill also requires carriers transporting goods into the State to provide pertinent

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa, President
and Members of the Senate
July 9, 2008
Page 2

information for the Department of Agriculture to detect high-risk cargo entering our islands in a timely manner.

For the foregoing reasons, I allowed Senate Bill No. 2850 to become law as Act 236, effective July 8, 2008, without my signature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Lingle", written in a cursive style.

LINDA LINGLE