

HFIA Legislative/Advocacy 2021

2021 Legislative Report

SB186, SB499, HB831, HB544 HD1, HB1020 HD1, SB931, HB433 HD1, HB1141, HD1, SB479, SB493 SD1, SB585, SB968, SB693, SB1396, **HB863 SD1**, SB88, HB6, HB95, HB464, HB523, HB559, HB805, **HB1008 HD1**, **SB1162 SD2**, SB666, HB125, SB167, HB410 HD1, SB777 SD1, SB304, HB1025, HB1022, SB1309, SB1405, **HB469 HD1**, **SB693**, SB1292, SB999, **HB237 HD1**, SB1296, SB772, HB1008 HD1, HB1351, **SB1163**, **HB1009 HD1**, **HB1014 HD1**, **SB1168**, HB1179, HB362, SB471, SR30, SCR61, SCR258, **SCR260**, HR55, HCR119, SCR56, SCR38, SCR44, SCR56, SCR61, SCR186, **HB862**, **HB200**, **SCR234**

Bills Acted On By HFIA

Bill	Description	Notes	Action	Status
HB863	Authorizes general obligation bonds from the department of agriculture for the forest stewardship program.		Support	Passed
SB1162	Clarifies conditions that must be met by applicants to receive funds under the forest stewardship program.	Wade Lee submitted in support of on behalf of Haloa Aina & Nick Koch submitted in favor of on behalf of Forest Solutions.	Support	Passed
HB237	Appropriates funds for the control of the two-lined spittlebug and recovery of rangelands damaged by the invasive pest.	The Hawaii Cattlemen's Association sought HFIA's support.	Support	Passed
HB1009	Establishes and amends penalties for persons in violation of state forest lands, water development and zoning laws.	Testimony drafted	Support	Passed
SCR260	Endorsing and supporting 'Aina-based values to guide Hawaii to a healthy and thriving future.		Support	Died
HB469 HD1*	Requires the DLNR department of agriculture to meet and identify non-agricultural park lands that should be rezoned as conservation districts.	Peter Simmons submitted testimony in support and Hawaii Cattlemen's Association submitted testimony in support and sought HFIA's support.	Support	Passed
SCR234	Urging the Department of Agriculture to expand its quarantine facilities of the plant quarantine branch.	Don Bryan submitted personal testimony.	Support	Died-Referred to committee
HB200 SD2	Eliminates HTA's ability to address issues dealing with impacts to Hawaii's natural resources, fund programs that perpetuate the Hawaiian culture and help the community and other key functions of HTA and will restrict their ability to work towards a regenerative tourism model.	Bill would hinder HTA's ability to continue to support natural resources, Hawaiian culture and Community programs.	Oppose	Passed
HB862 SD2	Eliminates key functions of HTA, restricts their ability to: Work towards a regenerative tourism model; Support community projects and events; Carry out the Destination Management Action Plans.	Bill would hinder HTA's ability to continue to support natural resources, Hawaiian culture and Community programs.	Oppose	Passed

* Bill was originally proposed to take DLNR lands leased for pasture and transfer them to DOA. The final form of the bill was not to do such transfers, but instead assemble a working group to go over these issues and come up with a report to the Legislature. Now, it is on the Governor's list of bills to veto. [Link to additional information](#)

Advocacy Letters

To:	Content:
Hawaii County Council	In support of Palamanui Global request for a zone change.
Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Maize Hirono, Congressman Ed Case, and Congressman Kai Kahele	In support of the planning and construction of new biocontrol research facilities in Hawaii.
UH and HCC staff: Joni Onishi, Erica Lacro, Rachel Solemsass, Melanie Wilson, Orlo Steele, David Lassner, Orlo Steele, Pamela Scheffler	In support of the Hawaii Community College Forest TEAM (Forest Tropical Ecosystem and Agroforestry Management) Program.
Hawaii Representative and Senators	Asking HI reps and Sen. to continue to support the Aloha Connects Innovation (ACI) program. This is the COVID-19 stimulus program in which we were able to hire Aspen to assist with membership recruitment.
Mike McCartney, Director of Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT)	Asking for his support for the Hawaii forest industry, including helping to get Honua Ola Bio-Energy Plant up and running.
US Representative Kaialii Kahele	Requesting he co-sponsor the Safe Routes Act of 2021 (H.R. 2213) introduced by Congressman Mike Gallagher (WI-8). The Safe Routes Act would improve the safety of log trucks hauling raw forest products that include logs, pulpwood, biomass, and chips for a short distance from the woods to the mill.
US Representative Kai Kahele.	A request for funding for the Healthy & Productive Forests project.
Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack	A request for his help in building and operating new biocontrol facilities so that Hawaii's farms, ranches, and forests have a fighting chance against invasive species.

Letters Signed onto by HFIA

Written By:	To:	Content:
Forest Resources Association (FRA) and National Alliance of Forest Owners (NAFO)	Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Mayorkas	Urging the Secretary to release all authorized additional H-2B visas for the second half of Fiscal Year 2021 as provided in the FY2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act.
Forest Resources Association (FRA)	Department of Agriculture (USDA) Secretary Vilsack	Urging the USDA to release all of the logger relief assistance funds provided in the FY2021 Omnibus and COVID Relief and Response Act.
Charitable Giving Coalition	United States Congress	Urging Congress to include the Universal Giving Pandemic Response and Recovery Act (S. 618 , H.R. 1704), as introduced, in the next COVID-19 relief package/tax package. If enacted this will incentivise charitable giving and quick pandemic recovery.
National Council of Forestry Association Executives	Congress	Supply Chain Workforce letter to the administration and congress regarding the forest products industry's supply chain workforce concerns that demand immediate attention to ensure that the forest products industry will continue to meet America's demand for products.