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April 1, 2019

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S. C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 1548, HD1, SD1 Relating to Rapid Ohia Death

Even though the fungus has spread beyond the Big Island, the initial shock of the discovery of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD) has passed, and therefore the media has largely moved on. But the devastation of ROD and the loss of Ohia in Hawai'i should not be ignored. Therefore, I am grateful to all of you for keeping this issue alive at the Legislature and furthering the battle to defeat this terrible scourge.

I will defer to the scientists as to how much funding can be productively used, and simply urge that there be sufficient money allotted to find a ROD cure, or at least treatment.

Please approve funding to combat ROD with a favorable vote on HB 1548, HD1, SD1.

Respectfully Submitted,

Harry Kim
MAYOR