



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII  
STATE CAPITOL  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 2, 2017

Ms. Suzanne Case  
Chairperson  
Department of Land & Natural Resources  
State of Hawai'i  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Mr. Scott E. Enright  
Chairperson  
Department of Agriculture  
State of Hawai'i  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, HI 96814

Subject: Lehua Island Rat Eradication Project

Dear Chairpersons Case and Enright:

I am writing you to officially express my deep concerns about the Lehua Island rat eradication project proposed by the state and asking you to delay the project until questions about the work are answered.

Questions about the project by many of my constituents - including environmentalists, fishers, tour boat operators and others - have not been answered.

Residents are very concerned about the process of dropping poison on Lehua Island to kill rats, especially as we enter hurricane season. There are also questions about the possible effects of the poison on the coral reef, the endangered monk seal and green sea turtle, and fish near the island.

A public meeting held July 25 at the Waimea Center on Kaua'i did not answer resident's questions, due to a crowded room of very angry people. Although there were state personnel knowledgeable about the eradication, it was hard to identify who they were and many of the experts were not able to respond to the angry crowd.

I also understand that brodifacoum, which may be planned to be used as the rodenticide, has not been licensed for use in Hawai'i. How is it possible to have our pesticide section authorize use of this?

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Even if you believe your Environmental Assessment for the project is complete and required public meetings held as part of the permitting process, as public employees your work is not done until the community has answers to all its questions about the project. In my previous briefing on this project, I recall hearing that Ni'ihau would be given a container of fish. If that is the case, is it possible that it will affect their fish supply?

The community would like to know why the state is planning to drop poison from the air on Lehua Island for a second time when this process was a failure in a previous attempt and the same process has also failed in other places. What alternatives have been explored?

Please do not make the mistake of putting a project deadline ahead of informing the public on this sensitive endeavor.

I am asking you to please delay the rat eradication project until all concerns from the public have been addressed and an agreement is reached on how to best proceed.

Please respond to this request by next Tuesday, August 8, 2017, so that I may inform my constituents on state cooperation for this project which directly affects their lives and livelihoods.

Sincerely,



Daynette "Dee" Morikawa  
Majority Floor Leader  
House of Representatives  
16th District – Ni'ihau, Lehua, Koloa, Waimea

cc: Governor David Y. Ige