



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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Pages: 1

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Impacts of fewer agriculture inspectors

The budget crisis resulted in the loss of agriculture inspectors and the ongoing furlough situation, and comments from the produce importers showed that they understand the need for inspection (“Fresh costs,” Star-Advertiser, June 13). What isn’t clear is why the airlines are allowed to continue to transport goods to Hawai‘i without paying the inspection fee. Fifty cents per every 1000 lbs of goods is supposed to be collected by airlines from importers (the shippers) and deposited into the pest inspection fund. Maybe if they started paying in, the situation wouldn’t be so dire.

(END)

Christy Martin is the Public Information Officer for the statewide Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS), a public-private partnership working to protect Hawaii from invasive species.