



# OFFICE OF PLANNING STATE OF HAWAII

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Statement of  
**RODNEY FUNAKOSHI**  
Planning Program Administrator, Office of Planning  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
Wednesday, April 3, 2019  
2:00 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

in consideration of  
**HCR 107 AND HR 101 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE  
PROGRAM TO ADDRESS AGRICULTURAL THEFT.**

Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the House Committee on  
Judiciary.

The Office of Planning offers **comments** on HCR 107 and HR 101 which request the  
Department of Business, Economic Development, & Tourism and Department of Agriculture to  
make recommendations regarding a Statewide program to address agricultural theft.

While we certainly share the concerns and are aware of the debilitating impacts of  
agricultural theft on farmers, neither the Office of Planning nor the Department of Business,  
Economic Development & Tourism has any related programs or enforcement capability to  
contribute to resolution of this issue. We respectfully defer to and fully support the Department  
of Agriculture in their efforts to address agricultural theft.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

**APRIL 3, 2019  
2:00 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 107  
RELATING TO REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS  
AGRICULTURAL THEFT**

Chairperson Lee and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HCR 107, requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the Department of Agriculture to make recommendations regarding a statewide program to address agricultural theft. The Department supports the intent of the resolution and offers comments.

The Department of Agriculture has already entered into a two-year contract with the Hawaii county prosecutor's office for one investigator to conduct agricultural theft and agricultural vandalism investigations. This has been very valuable and productive project with the limited staff performing investigations and outreach with farmers, law enforcement, and farmers markets. We encourage the cooperation and participation of other county law enforcement and prosecutors' offices to provide a consistent and effective effort in pursuing the prosecution of agricultural related crimes. It is important to note that SB759 SD2 HD1 and HB1503 HD2 SD1 offer additional resources to support the pilot project efforts in the County of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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April 3, 2019

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**TESTIMONY ON HCR 107/HR 101**  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
AND TOURISM AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO MAKE  
RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING A STATEWIDE PROGRAM TO ADDRESS  
AGRICULTURAL THEFT

Room 325  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair San Buenaventura, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HCR 107 and HR 101**, requesting that DBEDT and HDOA make recommendations regarding a program to address agricultural theft.

Agricultural theft and vandalism are persistent problems facing agriculture. Weather, drought, pests, weeds, disease, activists, unstable markets, transportation, labor issues, and a changing climate all contribute to uncertainty for farmers and ranchers. Few businesses face such challenges, yet we are charged with producing food, fiber, fuel and flowers for the 99% of non-farmers. Add in the constant threat and impacts of trespass, theft, and vandalism, and it's a wonder farms and ranches remain viable.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of this measure.

**HCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 10:54:46 AM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

**HCR-107**

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 2:15:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 4/3/2019 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this measure. Our farmers and ranchers cannot continue in the face of constant theft and vandalism which is occurring throughout the islands.

Thank you.