

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM

**MARCH 19, 2019
9:00 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 25
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROCESSING OF
STATE OF HAWAII PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORMS, INCLUDING THE
COSTS INVOLVED, AND CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE EFFICACY
OF SUCH FORMS.**

Chairpersons Creagan and Onishi and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 25, requesting the Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Tourism Authority to report to the legislature on the processing of State of Hawaii Plant and Animal declaration forms, including the costs involved, and to convene a task force to review the efficacy of such forms. The Department offers comments.

There are some mischaracterizations cited for the basis of this resolution. The first is that the form requires statistical information from visitors and residents who are on flights entering the State. The only requirement of the form is that all people declare what agricultural commodities are being imported into the State, if any at all. There is no requirement to provide the statistical information and the declaration form clearly states this.

The second mischaracterization is that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) conduct inspections of passenger bags into the State of Hawaii for plants or animals prior to departure from the



mainland. This does not occur, and neither the USDA nor the TSA have authority to inspect domestic passenger baggage for importation of plants, animals or other regulated agricultural commodities into Hawaii. The USDA does conduct inspections of passenger baggage leaving Hawaii to meet federally established quarantines for federally actionable pests such as fruit flies. The TSA conducts inspections of baggage to ensure in-flight safety and is looking for things such as firearms or explosives.

The third mischaracterization is that the amnesty bins and the declaration forms are the only means to regulate importation of plant and animals into the Hawaii. The primary means of regulation involves Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) Inspectors conducting inspections of regulated commodities at all major ports of entry statewide. The PQB uses a number of tools to ensure compliance with State regulations for the importation of agricultural materials. Some additional tools used besides the declaration form and amnesty bins are compliance agreements, detector dogs, and Electronic manifesting. Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 150A requires that a PQB inspector inspect and “pass” all agricultural commodities that are presented for inspection in order to allow entry into the State. The declaration form provides PQB inspectors with a mechanism to prioritize their inspections on the baggage claim. With the existing limited staffing, if the forms were not available, the ability to readily seek out and identify the regulated commodities to conduct an inspection would be difficult at best.

Like all regulations, education is the primary mechanism to gain compliance as the vast majority of the public are able and willing to comply with the rules and regulations. The declaration form is an invaluable educational tool that begins the process by informing visitors that Hawaii is unlike the rest of United States and that there are additional requirements to maintain Hawaii’s unique environments. As an example of the success of the form, in January 2019 there were 2,302 declarations with agricultural commodities, comprising 4,388 commodities, declared at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport. The amnesty bins collected an additional 337 commodities and provided an opportunity to those that were unaware of the requirements of the form to still comply with import regulations by relinquishing regulated agricultural commodities.

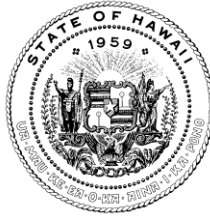
The Department uses this form only to conduct inspections and does not utilize information contained on the form unless action is taken based on the declaration. The

information used is the same information that PQB uses for all other importers who utilize other means of importation into the State such as air cargo or via surface vessel. All other information on the form and its use, including the final disposition of the form is done by the Hawaii Tourism Authority.

The Department is open to discussing options moving forward in the task force and asks the committee to consider the members listed in SCR20/SR15 to include only government and regulatory agencies to ensure effective and reliable recommendations and solutions. The committee may consider asking the USDA to participate in this task force as well as an airline and maritime representative.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
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LAND
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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25/HOUSE RESOLUTION 30
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROCESSING OF
STATE OF HAWAII PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORMS, INCLUDING
THE COSTS INVOLVED, AND CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE
EFFICACY OF SUCH FORMS**

House Concurrent Resolution 25/House Resolution 30 requests that the Department of Agriculture (DOA) and the Hawaii Tourism Authority provide a report on the use of the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department partners with the DOA on a number of invasive species and biosecurity efforts and understands that the use of the Plant and Animal Declaration Form is a primary source of information regarding the introduction of nonnative species into Hawaii. The Department also notes that this form has an educational value in informing incoming passengers regarding Hawaii's import restrictions and demonstrating that the State takes biosecurity seriously.

The Department is a collaborator with DOA in the development and implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, which has the primary purpose of identifying and addressing capacity needs in funding, personnel, infrastructure, and policy regarding Hawaii's biosecurity and invasive species programs. The report described by this measure would provide a description of capacity needs related to the processing of forms and could contribute to efforts to

increase capacity related to this important biosecurity function. The Department is supportive of the production of this report and the creation of the task force described in the measure.

The Department notes several amendments that were made to a similar measure, Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, based on testimony by the DOA identifying several mischaracterizations:

- Clarifying that the United States (US) Department of Agriculture and Transportation Safety Administration do not inspect passenger bags on the US mainland that are destined for Hawaii prior;
- Clarifying that the agricultural declaration form and amnesty bins are not the only means by which the DOA regulates importation of plants and animals into Hawaii; and
- Adding that the DOA Plant Quarantine Branch inspects regulated commodities at all major ports of entry.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312
In consideration of

**HCR25/HR30
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND HAWAII TOURISM
AUTHORITY TO REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE ON THE PROCESSING OF
STATE OF HAWAII PLANT AND ANIMAL DECLARATION FORMS, INCLUDING THE
COSTS INVOLVED, AND CONVENE A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW THE EFFICACY
OF SUCH FORMS.**

Chairs Creagan and Onishi, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Holt and Members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism (DBEDT) **supports the intent** of HCR25/HR30 along with the Department of Agriculture's comments. In addition, DBEDT would like to provide the following comments. The collected forms serve two purposes: to declare agricultural products and to collect visitor and returning resident information.

It has been over 60 years that visitor information has been collected on the back of the agricultural declaration form. As a result of the combination of the data collected in these forms, Hawaii has the best tourism data in the world.

The forms are the source for DBEDT's daily passenger count data and does not include sensitive private personal information. The data collection started right after September 11, 2001, and the data are widely used by businesses to monitor the status of the tourism industry. DBEDT was involved in the visitor-side of the form design and data collection between 1999 and 2009. We recommend that DBEDT be a member of the task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HCR-25

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 5:37:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2019 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	No

Comments:



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David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
and
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 19, 2019
9:00am
State Capitol, Conference Room #312

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 25 AND HOUSE RESOLUTION 30

Chair Creagan, Chair Onishi, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports** the intent of House Concurrent Resolution 25 and House Resolution 30, which requests the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to report to the legislature on the efficacy of the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal declaration forms.

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority, through funding received by the legislature, has supported the printing, distribution, collection and collation of these critical forms for many years. These forms, in addition to assisting the State of Hawai'i in its efforts to curtail the unintentional introduction of invasive species to our beautiful islands, also provide the State with invaluable information related to tourism. This data is provided to the HTA after the Department of Agriculture has completed their review, analysis and action to enforce their component. We welcome the opportunity to participate in the taskforce as described in these resolutions.

We would humbly request that the Department of Business and Economic Development (DBEDT) be added to the list of participants in the taskforce. The addition of the Research Division and potentially other resources within DBEDT would be extremely valuable in the development of the work products identified in the resolutions.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports** House Concurrent Resolution 25 and House Resolution 30. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.