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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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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.



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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.