

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
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND
TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**APRIL 12, 2019
9:50 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 312**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 20 SD1
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 SCR 20 SD1, 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.

Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) Chapter 150A mandates that people declare what agricultural commodities are being imported into the State, if any at all. The Department's primary means of regulation and ensuring compliance involves Plant Quarantine Branch (PQB) Inspectors conducting inspections of regulated commodities at all major ports of entry statewide. The PQB utilizes a number of tools to ensure compliance with State regulations for the importation of agricultural materials, including the Plant and Animal declaration form. Other tools used besides the declaration form and amnesty bins are: compliance agreements, detector dogs, and Electronic manifesting. HRS Chapter 150A also requires that a PQB inspector inspect and "pass"



all agricultural commodities that are presented for inspection, to allow entry into the State. The declaration form provides PQB inspectors with a mechanism to prioritize their inspections on the baggage claim. If the forms were not available, in conjunction with the existing limited staff, the inspector's ability to readily seek out and identify individuals with regulated commodities and to conduct a subsequent inspection would be difficult at best. Additionally, in the last twelve months, regulated items such as: a bearded dragon, live honeybees, green coffee, live fish, live seafood, and Bengal cats have all been declared on the Plant and Animal declaration form.

Like all regulations, an educational component is the primary and most cost-effective mechanism to gain compliance. The vast majority of visitors and residents are able and willing to comply with the existing rules and regulations. The declaration form is an invaluable educational tool that begins the educational process by informing visitors, and reminding residents, 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. With the exception of the personnel needed to monitor passengers and review the forms, there are no costs to the Department.

The Department uses this form to conduct inspections and does not utilize information contained on the form unless action is required based on the declaration, or for good cause during baggage surveillance activities. The information used is the same information that PQB uses for all other importers utilizing 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 can work with HTA to provide a report to the legislature on these forms, as both agencies find value in the form itself. If the legislature so chooses, the Department is open to discussing options 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

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Friday, April 12, 2019
9:50 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20, SENATE DRAFT 1
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

Senate Concurrent Resolution 20, Senate Draft 1 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) supports this measure.**

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Friday, April 12, 2019

9:50 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of

SCR20, SD1

**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 SCR20, SD1 along with the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) 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, and this has made Hawaii's tourism data one of the best in the world. The forms are the source for DBEDT's daily passenger count, which started right after September 11, 2001 and 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 believe that it is a good idea for HTA and DOA to provide a report on the use and cost of the forms first before forming a task force. Should the task force be formed, DBEDT would be happy to participate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawai'i Convention Center
1801 Kalākaua Avenue, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96815
kelepona tel 808 973 2255
kelepa'i fax 808 973 2253
kahua pa'a web hawaiiauthority.org

David Y. Ige
Governor

Chris Tatum
President and Chief Executive Officer

Statement of
CHRIS TATUM

Hawai'i Tourism Authority
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE
AND
TOURISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

Friday, April 12, 2019 at 9:50AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #312

In consideration of
SCR 20 SD1

Chair Creagan, Chair Onishi, Vice Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Holt, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and members of the House Committee on Tourism & International Affairs: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports, with a requested change**, the intent of SCR 20 SD1, which requests the Department of Agriculture and the Hawai'i Tourism Authority to report to the legislature on the processing of State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal declaration forms.

As stated in our testimony provided to the Senate, 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 assist the State of Hawai'i in its efforts to curtail the unintentional introduction of invasive species to our beautiful islands and provide the State with invaluable information related to tourism. In 2018, we processed more than 3.7 million forms at a cost of \$657,445. We collected data on accommodation types, length of stay, location of stay, number of individuals, as well as other data points that have provided us with market research that is both cost effective and valid. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional information to the legislature through the requested report.

We do not support the requirement to include a task force to review the efficacy of the forms. We would humbly request that the task force language be removed until the report has been completed and submitted to the legislature. If, after reviewing the report, the legislature believes a task force would be required, we would gladly support such efforts.

It is for these reasons that the HTA **supports, with the requested change**, SCR 20 SD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on this resolution.

SCR-20-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/10/2019 10:21:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/12/2019 9:50:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dylan P. Armstrong	Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats	Support	No

Comments:

The Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats write in support of SCR20 SD1.

The purpose and need of this measure is to improve government efficiency and the costs with which the tourism industry bears agricultural regulations. The study provided for in this resolution is reasonable and may lead to useful recommendations for the private and public sectors.

We thank Senator Kim for her introducing this measure, and request that this Honorable Committee for in support.

Respectfully,
Dylan P. Armstrong, Vice Chair
Oahu County Committee of the Oahu County Democrats