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GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
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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 Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
10:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 20, SENATE DRAFT 1/SENATE
RESOLUTION 15, 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/Senate Resolution 15, 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 these measures.**

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 these measures.

SR-15-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2019 10:13:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/3/2019 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Yes

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
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
10:30AM
State Capitol, Conference Room #211

In consideration of
SCR 20 SD1 AND SR 15 SD1

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means: The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) **supports, with a requested change**, the intent of SCR 20 SD1 and SR 15 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, including the costs involved, and convening a task force to review the efficacy of such 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.

With more than 3.7 million forms processed in 2018, the data collected has been very useful in the support of the HTA's efforts to support the visitor industry. Data such as accommodation types, length of stay, location of stay, number of individuals, and more have provided us with market research that is both cost effective and valid. In FY2019, the cost for the program, including printing of forms, envelopes, shipping, scanning, processing and tabulating was \$657,445. We welcome the opportunity to provide additional information to the legislature through the requested report.

We also appreciate and support the concept of developing a task force to review the efficacy of the forms. However, 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 and SR 15 SD1. We appreciate this opportunity to provide testimony on these resolutions.