

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEPT. COMM. NO. 215**  
MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
1428 South King Street  
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Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

December 26, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Member of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Member of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Report on the Agricultural Theft and Vandalism Pilot Project as required by Act 217, SLH 2019. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser".

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture

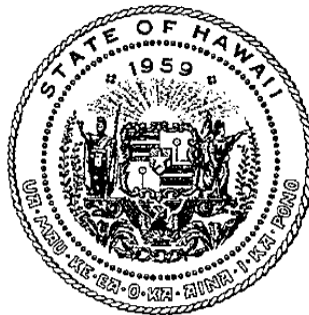
Enclosures



**REPORT TO THE THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
2020 REGULAR SESSION  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**REPORT ON THE AGRICULTURAL THEFT AND VANDALISM PILOT PROJECT**

**ACT 217, SLH 2019**



**PREPARED BY:**

**THE STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**DECEMBER 2019**

## **Background**

Senate Bill 759, SD2, HD1, CD1 was signed into law as Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. This act mandated the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to “establish a two-year agricultural theft and vandalism pilot project to examine the effectiveness of prosecuting agricultural theft and vandalism cases in the counties of Hawaii and Maui, including theft and vandalism affecting individuals who are not full-time farmers or ranchers.” The Department is tasked with evaluating the effectiveness of such as program through the identification of number of convictions, best practices for prosecuting, best practices for coordination with local law enforcement, best practices for reporting, locations of crime, and any preventative measures. The Legislature allotted \$200,000 for FY 2019-2020 to partner with Hawaii and Maui counties to hire one full-time equivalent enforcement officer in each county.

## **Responses**

### Findings and recommendations and any proposed legislation:

With the passage of Act 217, SLH 2019, the Department of Agriculture began the process of getting release for the \$200,000 appropriation. On December 2, 2019, the Department received approval for \$180,000 to be expended to carry out Act 217, SLH 2019. We are currently allotting the funds in quarters 3 and 4 of the current fiscal year to work with both counties on the pilot project.

The Department of Agriculture has supported efforts to address agricultural theft and vandalism through its collaboration with the County of Hawaii, Prosecuting Attorney’s Office. The work done with the County of Hawaii has proven to be valuable, hence the reason for Senate Bill 759, SLH 2019 being introduced to further the work underway. With a general fund appropriation, the County will be given the opportunity to carry out important education, outreach, and enforcement to affect change with agricultural theft and vandalism.

The Department of Agriculture would like to note that the Legislature mandated a two-year pilot project to be done, while only allotting a one-year appropriation. The Department recommends that the legislature allot additional funding to allow the two-year program to be completed.