

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
AND ON HIGHER EDUCATION**

**MARCH 16, 2020  
2:45 P.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION SCR42  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,  
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE ON  
PLANNING FOR A MULTIAGENCY FACILITY FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND  
OTHER CONTAINMENT RESEARCH**

Chairperson Gabbard and Chairperson Kim and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 42, Requesting the Department of Agriculture, University of Hawaii, and United States Department of Agriculture to Collaborate on Planning for a Multiagency Facility for Biological Control and Other Containment Research. In addition to the collaboration on planning the facility, the Department is requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the status and progress of the multiagency biological control facility, including federal engagement in the planning process, no later than 20 days prior to the convening of each Regular Session of 2021-2027. The Resolution attests that the Legislature supports multiagency efforts toward the planning and construction of necessary biological control and containment facilities in Hawaii. Lastly, certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution are to be transmitted to the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, Board of Agriculture of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii, and President of the University of Hawaii. The Department supports this resolution.



Invasive species are a primary threat to Hawai'i's agriculture and economy. Adequate funding for control of invasive species is critical to ensure that appropriate responses which mitigate negative impacts on the environment and economy can be implemented and maintained in a timely manner. The Hawai'i Interagency Biosecurity Plan provides the framework for these response efforts, and support for updated biocontrol and containment facilities are included in that plan. There is already a multiagency working group, of which the Department is a member, which has been working on laying the groundwork for this facility, and possibly another one on Hawaii Island to address US Forest Service needs, during conference calls and meetings over the past year. The Legislature's continued support will be crucial in advancing these efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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March 16, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**TESTIMONY ON SCR 42**

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII,  
AND UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLABORATE ON  
PLANNING FOR A MULTIAGENCY FACILITY FOR BIOLOGICAL CONTROL AND  
OTHER CONTAINMENT RESEARCH

Room 224  
2:45 PM

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Kim, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Kidani, and Members of the Committees:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SCR 42**, which requests that HDOA, UH and USDA collaborate on planning for a multiagency biocontrol facility.

Invasive species have become one of the most challenging problems impacting Hawaii. Many invasive species are damaging Hawaii's environment and the state's economy. Agriculture has a vested interest in this matter. Agriculture is one of the major casualties when invasive species are introduced. Every year, numerous new pests are introduced into the State, such as the two-lined spittlebug, coqui frog, coffee berry borer, macadamia felted coccid, brown tree snake, little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, small hive beetle varroa mite, to name a few. Control measures take time to develop, leaving farmers and ranchers at risk.

Biocontrol can be effective in helping to manage invasive species in Hawaii and is a component of an integrated pest management strategy. Biocontrol reduces pest populations and invasive species by natural enemies and typically involves an active human role.

A multiagency, regional facility for biological control and other containment research in Hawaii is critically important to identifying biological controls for invasive species. Such

a facility would help to control and hopefully eradicate invasive species that are already established in Hawaii.

Funding for the planning and construction of such a facility is essential to fully execute a comprehensive strategy to address the increasing amount of invasive species found in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**SCR-42**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 6:25:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>          | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton Kealii Pang,<br>Ph.D. | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

I strongly support SCR42. The biological control research facilities of the Department of Agriculture, the University of Hawaii, and the United States Department of Agriculture Pacific Southwest Research Station have become outdated and, in some cases, unusable. The collaboration requested in this resolution is consistent with the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan which identifies the planning and construction of biological control research facilities as a top priority for enhancing biosecurity in the State of Hawai'i.

Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.

**SCR-42**

Submitted on: 3/9/2020 7:29:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| John R. Gordines    | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SCR-42**

Submitted on: 3/13/2020 7:26:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Quinn        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments:

**SCR-42**

Submitted on: 3/15/2020 2:07:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/16/2020 2:45:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| J Ashman            | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: