

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 24, 2021
1:05 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 234, URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND ITS QUARANTINE FACILITIES OF THE PLANT
QUARANTINE BRANCH.**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution 234 urging the Department of Agriculture ("Department") to expand its quarantine facilities of the Plant Quarantine Branch ("PQB"). The Department offers the following comments.

Existing regulations in the Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) are designed to limit risk to existing plant-related agricultural industries by only housing and isolating limited amounts of imported restricted or potentially infected plants in quarantine. Particularly, limiting numbers of plants in quarantine is a key process to ensure proper phytosanitary measures.

The recent detection of coffee leaf rust ("CLR") in the State has shown that existing PQB quarantine facilities are unable to deal with industry-wide simultaneous demand for disease resistant stock. However, even if the Department were to expand existing facilities, regardless of funding source, this effort would still be inadequate for the total number of plants needed statewide for the entire coffee industry. The increase in quarantine capacity needed to meet those demands will likely require far more



funding and time and unfortunately may not be timely enough to adequately address the immediate threat to the industry.

HAR §4-70-6 allows the Board of Agriculture to shorten or exempt existing quarantines of restricted plants, provided that the plants can be propagated and/or imported under procedures that can mitigate the risk of pest introductions with the associated materials. The Department believes that this would be the most immediate and appropriate solution for importing clean stock.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Program has not been utilized by the Department in prior years due to the lack of need by the industry for use of the PQB facilities. The use of the quarantine facilities tends to be at about 30% on an annual basis and was not designed to deal with a rapidly spreading disease, such as CLR. Additionally, the program does not appear to be designed for funding for facilities designed for the general quarantine of plants.

In the long term, the Department believes that increased capacity to appropriately quarantine regulated plant materials will benefit growers by enhancing the Department's ability to prevent the entry of invasive species. The Department appreciates the opportunity provided by this measure to increase its capabilities to protect the State from the threat of invasive species.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

March 24, 2021

RE: Testimony in Support of SCR 234

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, President of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA).

The Hawaii Coffee Association supports SCR 234.

The recent introduction of Coffee Leaf Rust and CBB in 2010 have shaken Hawaii's coffee industry to its core. It's important to note that coffee is Hawaii's second-highest value crop with incalculable impacts to the state's economy.

Managing CLR and CBB are expensive to the both the public and private sectors and serve to further erode Hawaii's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Investment in quarantine facilities, or partnerships with private entities, will help Hawaii's farmers, coffee and otherwise, to avert the next invasive species disaster.

Please support Hawaii's agriculture by passing SCR234 and more broadly vote to improve funding Hawaii's Department of Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted.

SCR-234

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:01:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/24/2021 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SCR234.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn