

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



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

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
AGRICULTURE**

**MARCH 23, 2022  
9:00 A.M.**

**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE & CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2621 SD1  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2621 SD1 that appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including staff, facility, and equipment.

The Department supports this measure provided it does not adversely impact the Department's priorities in the Executive Supplemental Budget request. The recurrence of bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in livestock on the island of Molokai after 25 years without detections, requires a concerted effort with facility and personnel on the island. In addition to surveillance testing and expanded outbreak response activities, on-island personnel improve monitoring and information gathering activities needed to identify areas of disease risk and effectively mitigate disease spread. Flying in staff from other islands to set up temporary areas for processing cattle and swine and to conduct bTB testing creates significant delays that can be eliminated for timely response and assessment. A facility on island also increases efficiency and safety to process animals for testing.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important measure.



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
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BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION  
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

**WRITTEN ONLY**  
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
ON  
SENATE BILL NO. 2621, S.D. 1

**March 23, 2022**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
**Room 325 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2621, S.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Agriculture to control the spread of bovine tuberculosis among livestock and feral ungulates on Moloka'i. The bill further provides that the appropriation be used for the establishment of 1.00 Veterinary Medical Officer II position and 1.00 Livestock Inspector II position; the procurement of land for the construction of a portable field office; and one new vehicle.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



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March 23, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2621, SD1**  
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee:

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

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 2621, SD1**, which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture to establish bovine tuberculosis control operations on Molokai, including staff, facility, and equipment.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. The axis deer population on Molokai is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events.

These feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as the bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs and cattle have been documented in Molokai.

<https://hdoa.Hawai'i.gov/blog/news-releases/news-release-january-26-2006-nr06-01/>

Developing a comprehensive strategy can become an example of how the HDOA and other government agencies, the research community, and the public can jointly work together to solve a problem. We urge that the communities in the various areas be included as strategies are developed.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.