

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**

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

1:00 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 & VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 169 / SENATE RESOLUTION 161
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP AND
IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO CERTIFY PRIVATELY-OWNED AND
OPERATED PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 169 / Senate Resolution 161. The Resolution requests the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) develop and implement a process to certify privately-owned and operated plant quarantine facilities.

The Department supports the intent of the bill, recognizing the importance of adequate facilities for quarantine purposes. However, the Department would like to note that the ability to allow private quarantine facilities already administratively exists pursuant to Hawaii Administrative Rules Chapter §4-70-4 and §4-70-5.

The Department also has comments related to the importation of coffee material. According to 7 CFR Part 319 of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), coffee plants are prohibited to be directly imported from overseas to Puerto Rico and Hawaii to prevent the introduction of the coffee berry borer, *Hypothenemus hampei*, and the coffee leaf rust, *Hemileia vastatrix*,



and other serious coffee pests. Recently, the Department has initiated a pilot study, in collaboration with its federal counterpart, USDA APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine, USDA Agricultural Research Service, University of Hawaii, Hawaii Agriculture Research Center and our coffee industry to identify a safe and stream-lined process of importing rust-resistant coffee varieties to Hawaii using the Clean Plant Diagnostic approach of the National Clean Plant Network (NCPN). In short, resistant coffee varieties would be imported from overseas to an accredited and certified NCPN or other laboratory in California, screened and tested for pests and pathogens, reproduced as clean tissue culture, and then imported to a certified facility in Hawaii for propagation and subsequent release into the field. This process would guarantee clean coffee stock material for propagation thus reducing normal post entry quarantine restrictions here in Hawaii. This would also eliminate the need for private quarantine facilities which would be inherently at higher risk as they could be placed within close proximity to susceptible hosts which effectively eliminates the ability to deal with infested materials within the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



Hawaii Coffee Association
PO Box 168, Kealahou, HI 96750

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
March 28, 2022

RE: Testimony on SCR169/SR161; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROCESS TO CERTIFY PRIVATELY-OWNED AND OPERATED PLANT QUARANTINE FACILITIES.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in strong support of SCR169/SR161.

A report released on January 21, 2022 by USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) suggests the value of Hawaii's green coffee crop in the 2021-22 season is \$113,013,600. This figure places coffee at the top of the charts in state crop value, and does not account for upstream and downstream revenue in terms of value-added products and ancillary businesses. It's also important to note the coffee industry promotes tourism, and preserves open space, view planes and watersheds.

Coffee leaf rust (CLR) has been discovered on Hawaii Island, Kauai, Maui, Oahu and Lanai. CLR poses a devastating threat to Hawaii's coffee industry. CLR is known to spread rapidly and leads to defoliation and tree death.

HCA, working with HDOA, USDA, CTAHR, and industry stakeholders have developed short- and long-term strategies to manage this new threat. Our long-term strategy includes the importation of CLR resistant coffee varieties already growing in other coffee producing countries. Permit rules require that these imports remain in quarantine for a period of time to protect Hawaii's fragile ecosystems and agriculture.

This multi-agency effort has highlighted the deficiencies of available capacity of quarantine facilities in the state. The purpose of this measure is to promote private investment in Hawaii's quarantine facility infrastructure - one that is vital to our industry, and more broadly, agriculture and environmental biosecurity.

Our industry's survival of this invasive disease depends on cooperation between the public and private sectors. Presently, the state's quarantine facility infrastructure lacks the capacity to meet this challenge alone. Development of design standards will enable and encourage private investment in safe, state-approved quarantine facilities.

Please pass this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and for your support for Hawaii's coffee.

SCR-169

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 12:54:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/28/2022 1:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Hawaii Department of Agriculture | Testifying for Hawaii Department of Agriculture | Comments | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Staff will be available remotely to answer questions on behalf of the Department of Agriculture.