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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. 172 /SENATE RESOLUTION 165  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND QUARANTINE  
FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 172/Senate Resolution 165. The resolution requests the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (Department) to expand quarantine facilities administered by the Plant Quarantine Branch. The Department supports the intent of the resolution and offers comments.

The Department appreciates the committee recognizing the importance of adequate facilities for quarantine purposes. The Department has prepared and submitted a CIP request to improve an existing building of the Plant Quarantine Branch at the Plant Inspection Office (PIO) in Honolulu to comply with the stringent quarantine requirements necessary for plant pests. The CIP request would increase the Department's quarantine capacity by 50% at the PIO in Honolulu and gives the Department accurate time to complete design and construction.



The Department already has the ability to work with the affected industry, as approved by the Hawaii Board of Agriculture, to shorten quarantine periods subject to certain conditions of importation or propagation procedure. Regarding the coffee industry, the Department has initiated a pilot study, in collaboration with its federal counterpart, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 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. The pilot study could also eliminate the need to further expand existing facilities beyond the Department's existing CIP request.

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 SCR172/SR165; REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND QUARANTINE FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Senators,

I am Chris Manfredi, Executive Director of Hawaii Coffee Association (HCA) testifying in support of SCR172/SR165.

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 resolution is to promote investment in Hawaii's quarantine facility infrastructure - one that is vital to our industry, and more broadly, agriculture and environmental biosecurity.

Please pass this resolution.

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

**SCR-172**

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 6:40:04 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support