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Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



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Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

APRIL 13, 2022

11:00 A.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 325 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 172
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXPAND QUARANTINE
FACILITIES ADMINISTERED BY THE PLANT QUARANTINE BRANCH.

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 172. 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.

SCR-172

Submitted on: 4/12/2022 3:23:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kimo Falconer	Hawaii Coffee Growers Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the AGR committee,

Similar to my testimony on SCR-169, I wish to ask your committee to support this measure to help fix the HDOA quarantine facility problem. Expansion of our facilities is a major undertaking, but the effort has fallen on deaf ears, leading up to the current problem of under-capacity and in some cases (Maui County), zero capacity. We cannot keep passing bills to fight invasive species if we don't have decent quarantine facilities to begin with. The HDOA says they have a plan to rectify this, but those plans have not been made public.

Please consider supporting this important need for Hawaii as it crosses many, many lines of interest for our economic future.

Mahalo for considering this measure.

SCR-172

Submitted on: 4/10/2022 8:34:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SCR-172

Submitted on: 4/11/2022 6:56:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/13/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenani Gramberg	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Who is and How often are these leases being inspected for pono practices on Agriculture Lands? Who's inspecting how much dwellings are going up and being rented out to non farmers? How do we get the Waimānalo agricultural businesses to create a Future Business Plan?, so we can stop importing plants, which is where and how the invasive species are arriving here and start planting from seed to fulfill the Plans created by those particular businesses. Waimānalo has the perfect climate to perform this procedure and more. There are too many non-agricultural activities happening in Waimānalo on agricultural lands. Who's responsible for the eradication, before a population starts? Would it be the company that bought it in or the entity that leased the land?

Invasive species have a devastating effect on the state's agriculture, food self-sufficiency, freshwater quality and quantity, human health, and on the health of native species and ecosystems. February 1st marks the start of Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM).

How does the State pick or choose which invasive species to eradicate first? How does the state choose which invasive species deserves the funding? Why only in a particular area? When does eradication work become a community effort? We need to start thinking about all the invasive species here and start to create an eradication plan, rather the State has the funding or if it becomes a community effort as well.