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Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

1:01 P.M.

CONFERENCE ROOM 224 AND VIDEO CONFERENCING

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 184

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Concurrent Resolution 184. The resolution urges the Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Development Division to conduct and publish a study on protein consumption in the State. The Department offers the following comments on this resolution.

The Department respectfully clarifies that USDA statistics are traditionally published "top-down" from the national to state and to the county level. Island statistics are the exception and known to exist only for the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Department is deeply concerned with the scope of services included in this resolution. While seafood is an important protein source in Hawaii, the inclusion of wild-caught (pelagic) seafood is beyond the mission and jurisdiction of the Department. This issue is under the authority of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).

The focus on consumption, industry categories, and its disaggregation by island are also difficult challenges to tackle. It requires a breakdown of the local protein market by source of origin (local production, and net imports (U.S. and foreign imports less exports). The data burden is onerous on U.S. imports to Hawaii (and counties) as the information is not publicly accessible. One practical solution is to use retail scanner data, available for purchase from private vendor(s) and utilize related computational services. Such procurements will cost in excess of \$80,000, resources the Division does not currently have available. Additionally, the scanner data may include only grocery chain stores in urban areas.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.



SCR-184

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 11:49:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Farm Strong

SCR-184

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 4:20:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/29/2023 1:01:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

When are you Going to Learn that WE the People of Hawaii do not want you Wasting our Tax payer Moneys on things that are not Necessary!!