



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**  
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI  
A HO'OMĀKA'IKĀ'I

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
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Statement of  
**JAMES KUNANE TOKIOKA**  
Director  
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism  
before the  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Wednesday, March 27, 2024  
3:30 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of  
**SB 2079, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) supports the intent of SB 2079, HD1 which allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

DBEDT is in agreement that the Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form helps to prevent harmful pests from being brought into Hawai'i's unique environment, agriculture, and communities and that the existing law, as written, is not clear as to whether electronic forms may be used.

DBEDT respectfully requests that the collection of visitor characteristics continue to ensure the reporting of tourism research. The tourism data collected is useful for government agencies to plan and improve infrastructure, businesses to understand the needs of visitors, and economic forecasting. We also recognize the benefits that the digitization of the form offer, such as better efficiency, automated workflows, easy accessibility, data accuracy, and being environmentally friendly.

Mahalo for the opportunity to support this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEXTER KISHIDA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**MARCH 27, 2024**

**3:30 PM**

**CONFERENCE ROOM 308 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2079, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2079, HD1 relating to the importation of plants and animals. This bill allows the State of Hawaii Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

The Department agrees with the intent of the bill. The Department also appreciates the clarification that both paper and electronic forms are acceptable, and the inclusion of the suggestions included in our prior submitted testimony.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





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March 27, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**TESTIMONY ON SB 2079, HD1**  
RELATING TO THE IMPORTATION OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS

Conference Room 309 & Videoconference  
3:30 PM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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 2079, HD1**, which allows the State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form to be distributed, completed, and transmitted electronically.

HFB recognizes the importance of preventing destructive invasive species from entering the State and how difficult it is to manage those that become established in our islands. We appreciate the difficult work of HDOA and its partners in preventing entry and their efforts to eradicate or control these detrimental animals, insects, weeds, diseases, and other pests.

Our ports-of-entry biosecurity program is essential to prevent invasive species from entering the State. The State of Hawai'i Plant and Animal Declaration Form helps prevent new invasive species from entering Hawai'i when completed by passengers and flight crews arriving in Hawai'i. Converting the current paper form to an electronic form will increase the number of completed forms, which can help decrease the number of restricted plant and animal species entering the State.

Thank you for your continued support of Hawai'i's agricultural community.